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PAGE 16



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Tory Party deserves to be re-elected for its past achievements and future ambitions'

Major backs Hamilton's right to fight

By Philip Webster and Arthur Leathley

JOHN MAJOR strengthened his support for Neil Hamilton last night when he insisted that he would not bend to threats or sneers from people who wanted the former minster forced out of the election

The Prime Minster suggested that Mr Hamilton's right to stand for Parliament while protesting his innocence of the cash-for-questions charges against him had become a matter of principle that should be upheld irrespective of the damage it was doing to the

Asked on Sky News whether t was worth losing the election for. Mr Major sidestepped the question, but said: "If you are ecusing me of being too principled, I accept the charge. 'I do believe that when someone is facing charges, they have a right to defend

themselves. The person accused vigorously declares their innocence, and I believe the right thing for them to do is go through the procedure and let it be determined in the Mr Major's frustration at the sleaze issue had earlier

boiled over when it overshadowed his attempt to launch a small business initiative in Birmingham. He accused Labour of going to any lengths to keep the spotlight off the real policy issues and insisted that he was not going to have the whole of this election

hijacked by one constituency". Today, the fifth anniversary of his last election victory. Mr Major makes another attempt to lift the campaign by setting out his personal manifesto and declaring that Labour could not be trusted to carry on his reforms. Writing in The Times. Mr Major appears to accept that the time-for-a**ELECTION 97**

6 One gets the impression that this is less a political party than a rather jolly cocktail party 9

Charles Bremner with the Referendum Party, page 14 6 The days when the Church of

England was the Tory Party at prayer have long since passed 9 Anthony Howard, page 13

Reports, analysis Nigella Lawson John Major

change argument is the strongest card against him. "Eighteen years is a near lifetime in politics. Perhaps time to engender a mild curiosity: what would the other lot be like?" But he tackles the question head-on, asking people to consider whether they were better off than five years ago.

Mr Blair's conversion of convenience" would not last. he says, adding that in less than a week the Labour manifesto had unravelled on issue after issue: devolution, the unions, privatisation and Europe. If they change their ground so fast on issue like these, how can they expect

anything in their manifesto to be taken on trust?" The Prime Minister says he

joined the Conservative Party because it offered people like him hope, opportunity and independence and because it showed trust and faith in people. Today, he writes, it deserves to be re-elected for its past achievements and future ambitions The Prime Minister receives

some comfort today from an ICM poll for The Guardian. which shows that Labour's lead has narrowed to 12 points. It shows Labour support remaining static at 46 per cent, while the Tories have gone up two to 34 and the Liberal Democrats down two to 15 per cent.

But events in Mr Hamilton's Tatton constituency again blighted the Prime Minister's campaign yesterday. In Birmingham, he accused Labour of fighting in the guner. He was infuriated by suggestions that he had personally contacted Mr Hamilton and that Baroness Thatcher had agreed to support the Tory campaign only on condition that Mr Major backed Mr Hamilton. The reports, he said, had come "straight from the Labour Lie Machine. It is completely untrue. I haven't spoken to Neil Hamilton. It is utterly untrue."

Mr Major appeared to be in no better spirits when pressed over a Church report criticising politicians' failure to tackle poverty. The report was well-intentioned: But I disagree with the Church's judgment. They make a judgment on what they see. I invite them to look at what has happened to levels of unemployment in this country. I invite them to look at an economy producing



Martin Bell is confronted by Neil Hamilton and his wife Christine yesterday. "I am standing because a lot of people asked me to." he told them

Bell's first dispatch from the front line

By Russell Jenkins AND CAROL MIDGLEY

THE Battle of Knutsford Heath lasted only a matter of minutes vesterday as an ambush left Martin Bell dodging the first enemy fire of his political career.

The war correspondent emerged from his temporary base at The Longview Hotel in Knutsford for his first press conference in the Tatton constituency, where he is challenging Neil Hamilton as the

"anti-corruption candidate". Mr Bell, who admitted he had not slept well, had hunkered down in the hotel's Cellar bar, his campaign HQ, and told anyone who would listen that he hoped this was the start of the shortest political career in the history of

At his side was his friend

onel Bob Stewart, the former UN forces in Central and Northern Bosnia.

"I'm usually Sun material," said Colonel Stewart, who is now with Hill & Knowlton, the public relations firm. "They call me bonking Bob," he added, referring to his love affair with a Swiss-born Red

Scargill to stand against Howarth

Miners' leader Arthur Scargill confirmed last night that he would stand against Alan Howarth, the former Tory minister who defected to Labour. Mr Scargill will represent his Socialist Labour Party in the safe Labour seat of Newleft his wife. As journalists waited on Knutsford Heath for Mr Bell to appear, Mr Hamilton walked up arm-inarm with his wife Christine. We are perfectly entitled to be here," said Mrs Hamilton. "We are voters in the constituency, unlike Mr Bell, who lives in Hampstead. Mr Bell's candidacy is a media stunt."

Mr Hamilton nodded vig-Mr Bell appeared moments later in his customary white suit, his face set in the battlezone grimace made familiar by a thousand television appearances from the

He marched up to the couple. now ringed by the press, and told them how Some time I'd like to have a private chat with you away

have really felt for you. "I was just saying to a few I really want this to be a dignified campaign so that when it is over we can either congratulate you or commis-

Mr Hamilton clearly did not have a pleasant chat in mind. "What I want to know is whether you think I am guilty or innocent of any corruption? Whether you think it is reasonable for Peter Mandelson and Mr Prescott and others who have been endorsing your campaign to accuse me either directly or by

and "both campaigns would go down the tubes'

Mrs Hamilton in orange eans and multi-coloured cardigan, butted in: "Do you accept that a man is innocent until proved guilty? Do you accept that my husband is

Mr Bell: "I am not facing an ambush here. I don't know. I am standing here because a lot of people have asked me to stand here. The Continued on page 2, col 6

Tesco wins in profits battle

Tesco notched up another victory over Sainsbury's by overtaking it in group profits

for the first time. The annual pre-profits at Tesco rose to £750 million. Sainsbury's has said its 1996-97 profit will be between £640 and £650 million Page 25

Canberra recalls her finest hour

The Duke of York and Baroness Thatcher joined dinner guests aboard Canberra to mark the 15th anniversary of the sailing of the Falklands Task Force Page 2

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MPs demoted to hoi polloi

By James Landale, political reporter

WITH a royal signature, a proclamation by London's town crier, and the stamp of the Great Seal of the Realm on a single sheet of paper. Parliament was dissolved vesterday and 649 MPs ceased to be Honourable Members.

At 1.50pm, MPs were stripped of their rights and rejoined the hot polloias the five-year Parliament came to an end. The now former MPs rushed to finish their final lunches at the Strangers' Restaurant, one of the few remaining open, before clearing their desks and returning to the election campaign trail. Although they were given until midnight last night to leave

By JEREMY LAURANCE

HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

AN UNSEASONAL crop of red noses

and sore necks prompted the earliest

sunburn warning from the Cancer Re-

And the Pollen Research Unit said that

the warm weather meant that the

miseries of hayfever were likely to set in at

cancer charity advised people to cover up

to avoid the risk of skin cancer. A

least three weeks earlier than usual. After a week of brilliant sunshine, the

search Campaign yesterday.

the precincts of the Palace of tminster, they were demoted at the precise moment of dissolution.

Within minutes, Parliament's security office began invalidating their passes. "The Pass Office is pressing the button and wiping them off the face of the earth," one Westminster official said.

From this morning, the staff lock up MPs' offices, although those members who are standing down are given an extra week's grace to clear their desks. MPs' secretaries can no longer use House of Commons stationery or the free postage service, nor can MPs

use the underground car park Their telephones, faxes and computers have all been turned off. Although MPs cease to exist, ministers remain in Government until the election.

Peter Shore, the veteran former Labour minister who is retiring from Parliament. said: "It is a strange feeling. What strikes one is the imme diate and abrupt withdrawal of the facilities."

One MP, when asked what it was like to be an ordinary member of the public, said: "I can now announce the name of my mistress and you chaps least bit interested."

New rules to cost butchers £20,000

By Michael Hornsby, agriculture correspondent

TOUGH new controls "from farm to fork" will cost Britain's 12,000 local butchers (up to £20,000 each in hygiene improvements. All shops handling fresh and cooked meats

will require a special licence. The controls, proposed by the report of the Pennington inquiry into the E Coli outbreaks in Scotland, were accepted as necessary yesterday by Michael Forsyth, the Scot-

tish Secretary. But the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health complained that earlier recommendations requiring sep-

experts predict that it will become more

like Spain - arid in the summer months,"

told to expect to start sneezing in the next couple of weeks, when the birch pollen

Haylever sufferers were meanwhile

Dr Jean Emberlin, director of the

Pollen Research Unit, said that up to 20

per cent of the population were allergic to

birch pollen, and this year the count was

Heath fires, page 5

Leading article, page 21

the spokeswoman said.

season reaches its peak.

expected to be high.

arate staff and counters for raw and cooked meats had been watered down. And the Consumers' Association was disappointed that the report did not call for an independent

food agency. There is no direct censure in the report of Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, nor of his department's failure to pass to the inquiry team a report on E Coli risks in slaughterhouses compiled by the Meat Hygiene Service at the end of 1995.

Pennington report, page 6

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TV & RADIO46, 47 WEATHER 24 CROSSWORDS......24, 48

LETTERS21 OBITUARIES 23 SIMON JENKINS 20

ARTS33-35 CHESS & BRIDGE...... 44 COURT & SOCIAL....... 22

SPORT42-46, 48 STYLE18 MEDIA36, 37

spokeswoman said: "We are issuing the highest on the South Coast. "Weather

The sun has got its hat on. So should you

warning earlier than ever because of the

With the spring-like temperatures,

many people had been tempted to

sunbathe, wrongly believing that they

could not burn. The London Weather

Centre said the recommended maximum

period in the sun without protection was

25 to 30 minutes for people with fair skins

and 40-45 minutes for those with average

The Cancer Research Campaign said

that the risks of over-exposure were

fine weather and the prediction of more to

big

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Agency is swamped by cases of wrongful conviction

By Richard Ford HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE huge number of alleged miscarriages of justice threat-ens to overwhelm the new organisation set up to deal with claims of wrongful conviction, its chairman said

The Criminal Cases Review Commission estimates that it will examine 1,500 cases a year and will receive six cases a day to study. A report published yesterday said the "initial wave of cases threatens to submerge" the commission.

The report also discloses that implementing computer systems would be delayed for a "few months" and that case workers would not be in operation until June or July. Sir Frederick Crawford, chairman of the commission, said: "We are expecting an avalanche of cases as we move

into the next few months." The commission is expected to have to deal with up to three million pages of material annually. Sir Frederick admitted: "We don't know if we can cope. No one does."

Sir Frederick brushed aside suggestions of any conflict of interest through his membership of the Freemasons. "If I was involved in any dealing with which there was a conflict of interest, I would withdraw." he said.

Sir Frederick said he did not know if the file on James Hanratty, hanged for the A6 murder in 1962, had arrived at the commission. "I haven't seen the files on Hanratty and I don't even know if they have arrived yet. When they come it will be a very extensive investi-

Funded by an annual E3.5 million grant from Parliament the organisation has a staff of 40 and is still

Cases dealt with by the Commission will fall into three broad categories: old cases, such as Hanratty; those arising before the introduction of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, which rest on issues such as confession evidence and investigation procedure and those arising after the Act. which rest on issues such as evidence disclosure.



Baroness Thatcher signs an oil painting yesterday of the Canberra in San Carlos Bay. She was aboard for a commemorative dinner

End of the cruise for Canberra, white hope of the Falklands

SHE was the great white whale, the biggest single sit-ting target of the entire Falklands war. But unlike some of the leading politicians of that conflict, the P&O liner Canberra has survived unscathed to honourable retirement.

Last night in her home port of Southampton the 36-yearold leviathan played host to a dinner for Baroness Thatcher, the Duke of York and many other familiar names from the last great British military adventure. The Prime Minister of the day was reunited with Lord Parkinson and Sir John Nott, two members of her war

The Duke, then a front-line naval helicopter pilot, found himself among many of the military commanders who victory 8,000 miles from home. Also there was Lord Carrington, who re-

Duke of York to pay tribute to a floating Falklands veteran, writes Alan Hamilton

Political and military leaders joined the

signed as Foreign Secretary at the outset of the conflict. On April 8 1982, Britain had just declared a 200-mile war zone around the islands and the Canberra, fitted at top speed with helicopter decks. was about to cast off from Southampton with nearly 2,000 troops from the Third Battalion the Parachute Regiment, and 42 Commando.

The dinner, hosted by Lord Sterling, the P&O chairman, to mark the 15th anniversary of the ship's departure for Ascension Island to join the task force, will be the last occasion of its kind. In September Canberra, still mag-

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nificent but now feeling her age, will be taken out of

Lady Thatcher who arrived stylishly with Sir Denis on the quayside in a black helicopter, instantly relived the days of nailbiting and ultimate glory she shared with the ship.

"We could not have won if the merchant navy and the Canberra had not taken down all the soldiers and equipment. There was not even time to paint her grey."

Among the military commanders who sat down to dine with their former Prime Minister were Lord Lewin, then chief of the defence staff, Lord

staff, Rear Admiral Sir Sandy Woodward who commanded the task force, and Sir Jeremy Moore, commander of land forces who accepted the Argentinian surrender.

The 350 guests included many of the officers and crew the five P&O ships requisitioned for the task force, led by Dennis Scott-Masson, 67, then captain of

He recalled: "Undoubtedly, the worst moment of our 94 days at sea was our day in San Carlos Bay, where we hoped to be protected from attack. We knew we were a very large, white object, the biggest thing in the Falklands, There was a great fear on board; it was difficult to believe they would

There was no direct attack on the Canberra but she still

dodges

the \$31m

questions

As soon as she left San Carlos Bay, under naval escort, her mooring was taken by HMS Antelope, which within received a direct hit.

Her former captain has no doubt about the fate of his old ship. "She has always been a marvellous ship but, like the rest of us, she is mortal. She must be scrapped; you don't want anyone else mucking about with her.

The last word belongs to another dinner guest, Captain Christopher Burne, who was senior officer on board Canberra during her Falklands war service. "We heard at one stage that we were going to have to take all the troops from the QE2 because the Canberra was regarded as expendable. That did our morale a power of no good, I can

Ace dealer | Front line dispatch is first

By Jon Ashworth

THE City super-trader Shigeru "Sugar" Myojin re-treated behind a wall of silence yesterday, as his \$31 million (£19 million) package became the talk of the Square Mile. His employer, Salomon Brothers, blocked all requests for information, other than conceding privately that Mr Myojin does not drive his Ferrari to work. Neither does

he arrive by bicycle.

Now 47, he moved to London in 1995 from Tokyo, where his enormous earnings regularly made him a target for door-stepping TV crews. Insiders say he is determined to shield his wife and family from newspaper scrutiny. Mr Myojin is one of 23,146

Japanese nationals living and working in London, often favouring Japanese neighbourhoods. Many of the early arrivals settled in Hendon and Finchley in north London, which was inevitably dubbed "Little Tokyo". Many newcomers prefer Acton, west London, which has the benefits of a Japanese school. Their families often speak little English, and tend to stick to themselves, cushioned by a familiar network of Japanese

restaurants and karaoke bars. Mr Myojin's package — \$520,000 in salary, plus a \$10 million bonus, \$2.06 million in shares, and \$18.8 million in deferred payments — is virtually unprecedented for a Japanese national. Japanese companies have long favoured a system of "lifetime employment", which leans away from bonuses, company cars, and other Western-style perks. Instead, the employer takes care of elderly relatives, and provides other long-term benefits. The culture is changing, and big hitters such as Mr Myojin are opting for massive short-

term gains. There are 51,668 Japanese nationals living and working in the UK, according to the Japanese Information Centre. Their presence in the City is led by the Big Four Japanese securities houses Nikko, Nomura, Daiwa, and Yamaichi.

for Bell

Continued from page I impetus comes from local people. Let them choose between us.

Mr Hamilton: "What I would like to say then is, are you prepared to give me the benefit of the doubt on the made against me?"
Mr Bell: "Absolutely, abso-

lutely ... I have no problems with that." Mr Hamilton: "That's all that I wanted, because in this

country a man is innocent until proved guilty." Mr Hamilton claimed a moral victory. He said he was glad Mr Bell had conceded that he was innocent and the couple walked off towards Knutsford looking pleased with the outcome of their

shock strategy. Mr Bell, looking taken aback, joked: "I knew I had made my biggest mistake when I heard Mrs Hamilton say that I should bring my flak

jacket with me." Later in the day, it became clear that the encounter had clearly rankled Mr Bell. The once reluctant candidate said his sights were now set on becoming MP for Tatton. "After this morning I really have the personal motivation to see things through. We are really going to do something

"I thought it was going to be the shortest electoral cam-paign on record. I now know I am going to be your next MP. I am going to be the best member of Parliament you have ever had.

He later told a well-wisher: "I want to get him out. I really

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Teachers threaten to boycott grammar test

English teachers are threatening to boycott grammar, spelling and punctuation tests to be introduced for 14-year-olds this year. Members of the National Association for the Teaching of English say they are "banal and simplistic" Gabrielle Cliff Hodges, of the association, said yesterday that a vote at its annual conference last week, to support the principle of a boycott, was "intended as a signal to whoever is in power after the election ... that there would be-

considerable support for a boycott".

The tests, along with those for mental arithmetic, are to be piloted this summer and are intended to become compulsory next year. Five years ago, the association was in the forefront of opposition to the first National Curriculum tests. English teachers took the lead in agitation which prompted teaching unions to launch an all-out boycott. In a statement yesterday, the association said: There is no evidence that the introduction of such a test would have a positive effect on teaching and learning about language. It would be likely to reduce potentially rich areas of language study to the level of

£100m drug trial opens

A Briton accused of being Europe's biggest drug dealer goes on trial in Holland today accused of running a £100 million racket to flood Britain with heroin, cocaine, Ecstasy and hashish. Curtis Warren is one of seven Britons in the dock in The Hague for a two-day hearing. They are charged with trafficking in drugs and illegal possession of guns, hand grenades and CS gas canisters. A Colombian will also appear, charged with involvement in the smuggling. The court will hear how a six-month Anglo-Dutch police and Customs operation claimed to have broken one of Britain's largest drug rings. The accused were arrested last October.

Blackpool towers

Blackpool Pleasure Beach, which attracts more than 17 millon tourists a year, is the fourth most-visited attraction in Europe, beating the Eiffel Tower. The Golden Mile has become so popular with Eastern Europeans that traders are selling "Kiss Me Quick" hats translated into Russian. Disneyland is the continent's top spot, followed by Notre Dame and the Pompidou Centre, all in Paris. The British Museum came sixth in the Euromonitor survey.

Carroll pictures for sale

Four photographs of Alexandra "Xie" Kitchen, right, Lewis Carroll's favourite photographic model, are expected to fetch up to £10,000 at Sotheby's on May 2 Carroll entitles one of the pictures of the long-haired daughter of one of his greatest friends, the Rev G.W. Kitchin, The Prettiest Doll in the World. A photograph of her playing the violin is expected to fetch the highest price, £4,500.



Police raid nets £500,000

Detectives discovered £500,000 in cash hidden under a bed during a London-wide operation against burglars yesterday. The money was found during a raid on a house in Hounslow, west London - part of Operation Bumblebee and a man was arrested in connection with the illegal importation of alcohol. More than 2,000 officers targeted hundreds of addresses in the capital and, by 10am, there

Phone 'trapped robber'

An Underground train robber was trapped when he answered a telephone pager he had stolen from a commuter, the Old Bailey was told. The policeman who called Leroy Fearon then dialled 1471 and found out his home number and address. Mr Fearon, 18, from Kilburn, north-west London, is alleged to have been one of a gang who terrorised passengers last spring. He denies robbery and firearm offences. The case continues.

Dolphin, for a new lease of life in the bathroom



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Dolphin SPECIAL MITES BATARTOWS

Tory peer's

son 'milked

clients of

£630,000° BY PAUL WILKINSON THE solicitor son of a former

Tory party vice-chairman used hundreds of thousands of

pounds of clients' money to finance his gambling habit and to prop up a failing fish and chip business, a court was

Simon Kaberry, the third son of Lord Kaberry of Adel, who was seriously injured in

the IRA bomb attack on the

Carlton Club in London in 1990 and died the following

year, pleaded not guilty at Newcastle Crown Court to

stealing £630,174 of clients'

money. He also denied three

charges of false accounting

told yesterday.

· High-flying union official grounded after hitting rival

B: HARVEY ELLIOTT AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN's best paid union official has been dismissed for assaulting a member of a rival organisation who was taunting him about his luxurious lifestyle. Mike Coleman, a senior

steward with British Airways, allegedly spat at, then punched, another steward from a breakaway union in BA's main crew reporting area. Mr Coleman earns more than £70,000 a year from his job as branch secretary of the British Airlines Stewards and Stewardesses Association 2000 plus £32,000 working on BA's short haul operations and a daily allowance worth around £20,000 a year when he is on union business.

He lives in a luxurious home complete with swimming pool and snooker table Hampton, southwest London and sends his children to public school. Details of his earnings became public as the trades union "watchdog". the Certification Office, began an examination into allegations of financial irregularity in BASSA 2000 mainly involving another official and going



Coleman: union official sacked for public brawl

back at least five years. Last month the Certification Office notified Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, that there was "no evidence of a significant issue of financial corruption".

There was no suggestion that Mr Coleman had been involved in financial malpractice. But they said there was evidence of "extremely bad administration, weak financial controls and non-implementation of the union's own rules regarding the control of branch finances", and ordered further investigations to take

The Transport and General Workers' Union said last night that the matter was "still subject to various legal ac-tions" and it could not comment. Last night Mr Coleman denied that he was making £100,000 a year and said he was "lucky to earn half that". He added that he did not touch Mr Fallon and that the BA case was "outrageous".

The two unions have been rivals since Cabin Crew 89, set up with the help of the pilots' union Balpa to represent long haul cabin crew, broke away from BASSA. BASSA has around 8,500 members and Cabin Crew 89 has 3.500.Jim Welsh, who became general secretary of the breakaway group, was awarded £100,000 in damages after a newsletter accused him of misusing TGWU funds to set up Cabin

Fallon, another BA steward who belongs to the rival Cabin

Crew 89 union which broke

away from BASSA eight years

ago, waved copies of a report

into Mr Coleman's earnings in the Compass Centre at

Heathrow, the BASSA official flew into a rage and allegedly

spat at and then punched Mr

He was watched by "doz-ens" of crew, including pilots, many of whom gave state-

ments to an inquiry. Mr

Coleman was first suspended

then formally dismissed in

January. He appealed and

after two further internal in-

vestigations the dismissal was

upheld, of which he was

British Airways last night

confirmed that Mr Coleman had been dismissed. It said a

disciplinary inquiry found that he had assaulted another

BA employee: "Physical assault is construed as gross

misconduct for which dismiss-

al is the appropriate sanction."

informed on Friday.



TWO golfers, Suzi Toft, left, and Jill Dyke, playing against each other in a fourand ball competition, both shot holes-in-one at the same hole. The pair, playing at Trentham golf course, near Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, looked on amazed when their balls dropped into the 116-yard

It's a hole in one — twice

fourth hole within seconds of each other last Tuesday. The two were competing against each other in the four-ball with their friends Anna Bullock and Nancy Lane when the feat occurred. Mrs Dyke, 60,

who has been playing golf for 20 years, said: "Suzi went first, put the ball on the green and it ran down to the flag and dropped in. I then saw my ball go in. We just couldn't believe it, we jumped around

The group then returned to their game, with Mrs Dyke, who has a ten handicap, and her partner going on to win. The bookmakers Ladbroke's said yesterday that the odds on such an achievement by two amateur golfers would be 100 million to 1.

and one of deception between September 1992 and January 1994. The court had been told that Mr Kaberry was suspended by the Law Society and later that he had been "robbing Peter to pay Paul". David Hatton, QC, for the prosecu-

tion, said: "Very frequently, both Peter and Paul were being robbed and, by and large, neither were being paid their dues." Mr Kaberry, 49, of Leeds, was alleged to have got into financial difficulties in the late

1980s. After his arrest in March 1994, the court heard he told police that he decided the only solution would be to win huge amounts from betting on horse racing. He also admitted "sitting on" his brother's £245,000 mortgage in an effort to make his accounts add up. In a lengthy confession to police he said: "Everything I

have touched has turned to disaster. I have created a horrible mess which I could not face or overcome. I have simply tried to windmill everyone's money. I have no nest egg. I live in a tip and have not been on holiday. There is no woman in my life I have spent it on. I started gambling to try to pay off the debts."



Taunts about Mr Coleman's luxury house in south London and his £120,000 annual pay led to assault

day to oppose the removal of their 19th-century red-brick pavement for use in a

more upmarket part of the borough. Families brought out their picnic tables, confronted police and heckled workmen. They sang Sixties protest songs as they gathered behind the patio furniture that comprised their front line in Windmill Street. They are upset that their bricks are being hijacked to gentrify the Pantiles, two miles away, which they say already

BY DANIEL McGRORY

MIDDLE-CLASS residents of Royal Tun-

bridge Wells manned a barricade yester-

council Local officials pointed out that the Pantiles is the site of the original spa in Tunbridge Wells and is deemed a conservation area. They added that it is the borough's main money-spinner as a tourist attraction. The street is cluttered

enjoys generous handouts from the

with antique markets, coffee shops and pubs while some of the borough's most expensive housing fans out behind the **Pantiles**

Pavement rebels mount barricade

Mark Southon, a resident of Windmill Street, was defiant. He said: "We will occupy the street day and night to stop the council plundering our heritage. Direct action is all that is left for us. The council thinks everyone in Royal Tunbridge Wells is too meek and mild to get involved in demonstrations but they are also telling us we are not posh enough for these pavements. They want to slap down black tarmac. They have turned us into militants.

He aded: "This is a little part of England which wants to remain pleasant and we are not going to take being pushed around hence you are witnessing pave-

Stephanie Flynn, another member of

know their plan is to use our path to smarten up a pedestrian walkway from where the tourist coaches stop. Why should we be robbed?" She knew of six other middle-class streets that she said the council planned to pillage.

The rebels are hoping that by today the protest will have spread.

The council, surprised by the residents' action, held hurried meetings to consider how to defuse the rebellion but pointed out that it would cost twice as much to rebuild their pavement with bricks than tarmacadam. The Liberal Democrat parliamentary

candidate, Tony Clayton, turned up at Windmill Street before breakfast to lend his support and conceded that his campaign was not being helped by the council's attitude over the red bricks. Rival election candidates have pledged

to take their place on the front line at the Windmill Street rebellion, said: "We

Wedgwood Museum's finest vases are stolen

BY RICHARD DUCE

AUCTION houses in Britain and America were alerted yesterday to the theft of rare vases from the Wedgwood Museum in Staffordshire.

The thieves picked out the three most valuable pieces in the Victorian section of the museum, leading to the theory that they were stolen to order. The vases are said to be worth a total of £10,000.

Security at the museum is being reviewed following the theft, which happened soon after it opened its doors last Saturday

A glass cabinet containing the three pieces of enamelled Parian ware dating from 1860 was forced open. It is unclear whether the cabinet alarm 'failed to go off or had been disabled. The thieves ignored the other 150 items on show at the museum at Barlaston. near Stoke-on-Trent, which is visited by 200,000 people a

The company said yester-day that it was offering a substantial reward for the recovery of the vases. Two are decribed as blue "Barber" bottles which stand almost a foot tall and the third, in green, is two inches shorter.

Clare Elsby, of Wedgwood, said: These pieces are particularly beautiful examples of Victorian ware. The thieves appear to have known what they were doing."

'oom

Husband laced tea with poison, wife tells court

A WOMAN became suspicious when her normally "mean and obsessive" husband began bringing her tea in bed, a court was told yesterday. Bill Down even offered his wife Linda a second cup and took over the cooking, the jury was told.

Down, described as a woman hater, became nice. pleasant and thoughtful, said Geraldine Chapman, for the prosecution. But the tea and the food was laced with rat poison, she alleged.

Mrs Down, who had been married for 27 years, started to notice a strange smell in her tea. Northampton Crown Court was told. She began pouring it away, keeping the dregs in jam jars which she hid. After her husband started cooking she became ill. Mrs Chapman said: "He hated women. In fact this may have had something to do with his general attitude towards his

marriage. She said that after one incident Mrs Down searched a kitchen cupboard and found a jar which contained putrid smelling liquid. Mrs Down, who works part time with special needs children, told the court she became "very frightened" when it dawned on her her husband was trying to

poison her. She said: "I was becoming more frightened. When he started bringing two cups up I kept a jam jar upstairs and tipped the stuff into it when he was in the bathdroom. He saw I had drunk it and looked into the cup and asked if I wanted another cup.

"I was trying to act normal so I said that would be nice and tipped that away after he had gone to work."

Asked how her husband was behaving. Mrs Down said: "A lot of the time he was really nice, really kind and thoughtful." Asked if that was unusual she said: "Yes, that made me really wary. It put

me on alert." Mrs Down, of Burton Latimer. Northamptonshire. added: "He never got on with his mum. He did not like her. I think over the years he transferred that dislike to me."

Last August, the court heard, she took her samples to the police for analysis. They hid a surveillance camera in the house and arrested her husband after watching him take the rat poison into the kitchen before making the morning tea.

Down. 50. denies four charges of administering poison with intent to endanger his wife's life or cause her grievous bodily harm. He also denies an alternative charge of administering poison with intent to injure, aggrieve or annoy. The case continues.



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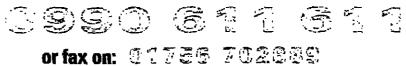
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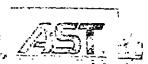
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. Two old friends have more in common after sharing kidneys

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

TWO women selected for kidney transplants from the same donor on the same day discovered they had been childhood school friends 20 years earlier.

Teresa Minter and Denise Culien, who were best friends at St Francis primary school in Peckham, south London, in the 1970s, found themselves in neighbouring hospital beds, having been diagnosed with the same illness of the same seriousness, with the same blood group and tissue type which made them suitable for transplant from the same

The women, both 29. underwent their operations at Guy's hospital in January. Geoffrey

Koffman, the transplant surgeon who carried out the operation, said: They both had kidney problems we couldn't cure and both ended up on dialysis. There are seven million people in this region but we only do 100 transplants a year."

Teresa Minter began having kidney problems when she was 17 but did not suffer complete failure until ten years later. She had one transplant, which failed, and had to go back on dialysis for a year before a second chance was offered in January. Denise Cullen did not know her kidneys were failing until 18 months ago. Mr Koffman

said: "By then her kidneys

were virtually finished. She was on dialysis for a year before the chance of a transplant came up." Both women have been diagnosed with nephritis (inflammation of the tissues).

Teresa Minter, who is married and lives in Norwood. south London, said: "It was an incredible moment. The chance of having a new kidney was fantastic in itself but now I have got a new best friend all over again. When we were children we were inseparable.

Neither woman knows the name of the donor. Both have left hospital and there are no signs of their new organs being rejected.

THE ENERGY TO BREAK THROUGH

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Roux faces £400,000 tax bill for abuse of pension rights

AND ANNE ASHWORTH

THE restaurateur Michel Roux faces a £400,000 tax bill after an unsuccessful High Court challenge over his pension arrangements.

M Roux, 61, who runs the acclaimed Waterside Inn. had claimed that the Inland Revenue acted unreasonably by imposing a heavy tax penalty on his pension when £900,000 from his company scheme was transferred into a specially created new fund. The Revenue considered this manoeuvre to be tax avoidance.

Lawyers for M Roux said that the Inland Revenue had overreacted by removing official approval from his original scheme, of which his wife Robyn was also a member, and assessing the cash that had been invested in it for tax at the rate of 40 per cent. Mr Justice Tucker said yesterday that the Inland Revenue was entitled to see M Roux's attempts to avoid tax as an

abuse of the system". During a three-day hearing last month, Andrew Thornhill, QC, for M Roux, said the new pension fund had been a legitimate arrangement allowing M Roux to avoid having to buy an annuity. Normally when schemes are wound up, buying an annuity is the only option open to scheme members. An annuity is an investment that pays an income for



Roux lost High Court bid for judicial review

life. But annuity deals can be unfavourable when interest rates are low, as at the

Mr Thornhill said the Inland Revenue would be unfairly penalising M Roux's wife because she had had no knowledge of the new scheme being set up but would find her £300,000 pension fund savings liable to tax as well.

Rejecting M Roux's applica-tion for judicial review, Mr Justice Tucker said: "Whether the tax-avoidance scheme worked or not, the Revenue was justified in withdrawing approval for the old scheme.

After the hearing, Paul Baxendale-Walker, a tax solicitor consulted by M Roux's legal team, said: "This judgment contains some extraordinary and novel proposals on tax and pensions legislation.

will be an appeal." John Hinton, assistant director of the Inland Revenue's savings and investment division, said similar cases of tax avoidance were being investigated. The judgment vindi-cates the action we took on

Generous tax breaks are given to encourage individuals to invest in pensions to provide for their old age but the Inland Revenue is ever watchful to ensure that this relief is not abused.

Recently the Revenue has acted over certain types of scheme where individuals have extracted cash from pension funds not with the aim of using the money for their retirement. In M Roux's case, the Inland Revenue found that the scheme had been badly managed and withdrew its approval, which meant that the fund had to pay 40 per cent

M Roux's advisers tried to pre-empt the withdrawal of the approval by transferring the money to another scheme. Robin Ellison, head of pen-

sions at Eversheds, the solicitors, said: "The Inland Revenue has been watching these smaller schemes very carefully and is quite rightly acting where it sees any abuse. Cases like this are extremely rare and certainly do not affect members of conventional pen-



Stephen Cyster with his three surviving children, Sarah. Thomas and Ben

Father haunted. by memory of sons drowned on fishing trip

THE father of two boys who drowned on a fishing trip described yesterday the agony of living with the knowledge that one had given up his life

Stephen Cyster was given a lifejacket by his son Paul, 18. as they struggled to survive in the Bristol Channel after their boat sank in January. Since then he has been haunted by the image of Paul swimming away with the parting words f love you, dad".

The teenager's body was recovered on Good Friday in the River Avon beneath Clifton suspension bridge. The body of his brother David, 10, was found on the banks of the Severn, 11 days after the

Mr Cyster said that losing two sons had brought him to the brink of suicide. He was treated in hospital for hypothermia when rescued, and then spent three weeks in a psychiatric unit receiving treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder.

His distress was compounded last week by the arrival of a Christmas card handmade by David, postmarked December 2. Only the needs of his other children, Sarah, 8, Ben, 3, and Thomas, 2, had given him the strength to live, he said.

Paul made the ultimate sacrifice: he had the lifejacket but he gave it to me. I have contemplated suicide since. but then Paul's sacrifice would have been meaningless," Mr

Cyster, 40, said.
"I would swap places with either or both of my boys if it was possible. Kids are the most precious thing in the world. You don't realise that until you lose them."

sell 10m

copies of

copies of Spice in five months.

A Virgin spokesman said:

'It is incredible. Our project-

ed UK sales were about

300,000 and the general feel-

ing was that domestic pop

The group's debut has

grossed about £102 million.

putting it among the music

industry's most successful re-

leases. Oasis's (What's The

Story) Morning Glory? has

sold 13 million copies world-

wide since October 1995. The Pink Floyd's The Dark Side

of the Moon from 1973 holds

the British album record with

Boy rape charge

sales of 28 million.

well.

Mr Cyster, of Sea Mills. Bristol, and his friend Dave into the Bristol Channel in an 18ft cabin cruiser on January 12. David had been urging his father for weeks to take him on his first fishing trip. They attempted to anchor

near Portishead pier for a final 30 minutes' fishing, but the anchor snagged in submerged rocks and the boat capsized on the rapidly rising tide. "It was all so fast it happened in seconds. I was in the

water. Paul came up to me. I was drowning, I was going down. He was shaking the hell out of me and shouting. We were both holding on to the lifejacket. He gave it to me. If I had known what he was

going to do I would not have let him. I heard Paul shout 'I love you, dad' and he swam The temperature of the

water was freezing, but I felt like I was on fire. It was terrifying. He was kept



David Cyster: was on his first fishing trip



Paul Cyster: handed lifejacket to his father

awake by shouting from Mr Sperring. Thirty minutes later they were rescued by a passing boat. "I felt like I was dying. It was like someone was walking around a house switching the lights off," said Mr Cyster, who is unemployed.

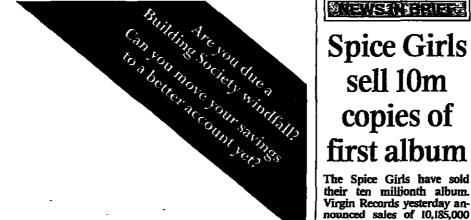
Mr Sperring, 59, said after-Steve, calling him every name under the sun to stop him losing consciousness. All I can surmise is that Paul tried to swim to shore. If it had been the summer and not so cold, he might have made it."

Mr Cyster's wife Tracey, 33, said she had been reduced to tears by the arrival of the card and the fact that Paul would never see it. "This was the first card David had ever sent. I will always cherish it. I was really upset and angry because Paul could not see it and we can't say thank you to

David because he is not here." The card, which has a picture of a goat, was made by David at a Sunday club meeting at his local church. It had the message "To Mum, Dad, Tom, Ben, Sarah and Sparky Jow and Pool [Paul]. Have a good time. Happy Christmas.

Love from David. Mrs Cyster said that she had left the card unopened for some time after it arrived. unable to bring herself to look at the message.





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dy for a week. Cargo ship sinks The 3,000-ton cargo ship Cita, which ran aground in the Isles of Scilly last month with the loss of 200 containers, has sunk. Tourism officials said that virtually all the 90 tonnes of oil on board was removed before she went down. Rods save lives

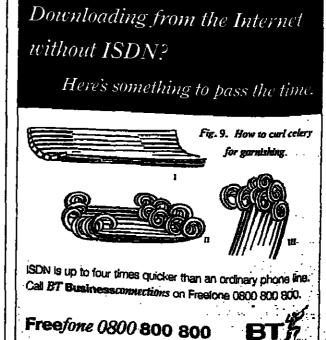
A father and son saved themselves after being trapped by the tide in Carmarthen Bay by sticking their 9ft fishing rods into a sandbank and clinging on. Hank Vandorn and his son Henry, 17, were rescued after two hours,

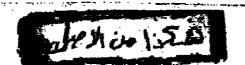
Cancer child dies Andrew Morris, 8, died in a swimming pool while on a holiday to prepare him for cancer treatment. Andrew. from Southampton. was swimming with his mother at Center Parcs at Warminster.

Animal heaven

A vicar hit a parishioner's pet donkey and killed it while driving from his church in Ashford Hill, Hampshire. The Rev Bernard Marshall, 61, said: "I was fairly prayerful afterwards. I hope St Francis is looking after her."







. Shortage of rain puts heathlands at risk from arsonists

BY NICK NUTTALL ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

Inted

THOUSANDS of acres of Britain's remaining heath-lands are at risk from fire as the dry conditions make dead gorse and heather vulnerable to arsonists and careless

Officials at the Council for National Parks, which represents areas such as Dartmoor, the Peak District and Brecon Beacons national parks, called yesterday for more sophisticated firefighting techniques.

Yesterday police arrested a 61-year-old local man after a fire devastated part of Dartmoor. He has been released on bail. The blaze turned about 350 acres of heathland, which was about to be designated part of a National Nature Reserve, into what police called a "lunar landscape".

Fire crews also yesterday tackled grass and gorse fires in Delamere Forest, near Helsby, Cheshire, and at Scarborough, North Yorkshire. They urged children to stop playing with matches during the dry conditions amid fears that the scale of grass, heath and forest fires in

1997 could outstrip 1995. During that year accidental and deliberate outdoor fires rose by 54 per cent. This year soil moisture levels are running low, especially in southern and eastern England, after exceptionally dry conditions. Rivers, lakes and ground aquifers are all also below seasonal averages.

After the Dartmoor fire, Phil Page, an English Nature warden, said a rare colony of Dartford warblers had been lost as had a colony of rare High Brown Iritillary butterflies. Plants such as sundews and several types of orchid were hit. The area, known as Trendlebere Down, is unlikely to recover for 20 years.

Mr Page said: "We desperately need rain. We have had no flush of new growth. We have a mat of dead vegetation which is highly inflammable and the ground is tinder dry."

Experts consider limited



Australia fire fighters used foaming technologies to in-

crease the amount of water available when tackling blazes

in remote areas. They had well-equipped, all-terrain fire

engines able to move quickly

In Spain and France aircraft

capable of scooping water from lakes are used for

firefighting. In contrast, most of Britain's beauty spots are

staffed by voluntary fire war-

dens trained in setting up fire

breaks and backed by water

A spokesman for English Nature, which administers the

network of Sites of Special

Scientific Interest, said: "We

can deal with small fires, and

thankfully incidents of the

scale of the Dartmoor fire are

still rare. But this could be-

that the environmental organ-

Leading article,

Letters, page 21

isations raddressing."

in difficult countryside.

burning, carried out by landowners, helps to improve heather growth. But uncontrolled fires devastate cover for threatened species such as sand lizards, natterjack toads and smooth snakes, making them vulnerable to predators. Plants which normally survive heath fires find it impossible to exist when the land is

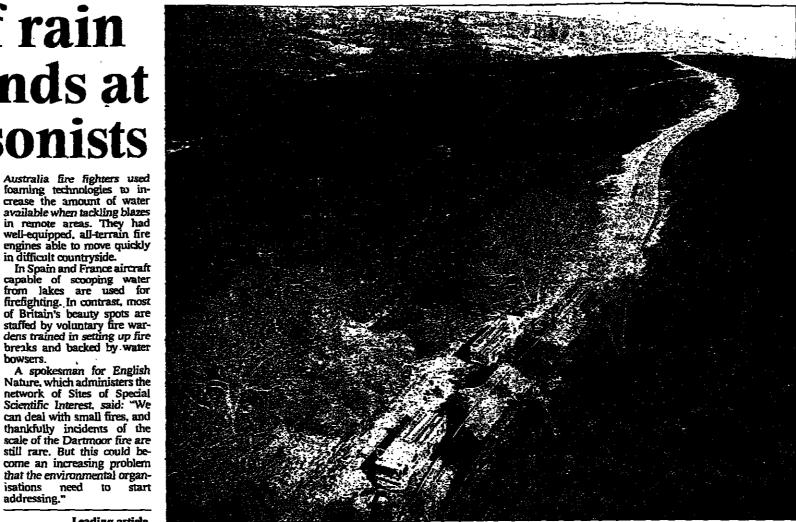
repeatedly burnt. Mr Page said all the heaths in southwest England were at risk because of the drought, including Dartmoor, Exmoor, Bodmin Moor, the Lizard peninsula and the east Devon commons inland from Exmouth and Budleigh Salter-

Andrew Nicholson of English Nature in Dorset said that county's heathlands were also at risk. Last year those near urban areas were worst hit by fires. About a quarter of Canford Heath, near Poole, has been devastated by a fire blamed on bored children playing with matches.

English Nature, the govern-ment's wildlife adviser, is also concerned about the wildlife and heaths around the New Forest in Hampshire, the Surrey heaths stretching between Chobham and Frensham, and Brecklands, an internationally important heathland on the Suffolk-Norfolk borders.

Steve Berry, of English Nature's Surrey team, said the county's heaths supported rare populations of dragonflies, including the white-faced darter, all of which are vulnerable to fire damage

Bill Gurnett, head ranger at Exmoor National Park, said yesterday that improved firefighting measures were essential. He said that in



Dartmoor gutted by fire: about 350 acres were reduced this week to what police called a "lunar landscape



He destroyed England's World Cup plans with a single strike. Now he is the most wanted man in British football.

Brian Glanville meets Gianfranco Zola

Stalker ex-lover

By AUDREY MAGEE

A PRIMARY SCHOOL teacher sobbed in court yesterday as the ex-boyfriend who stalked her after they broke up was jailed for two years. Christopher McEwen, 37, tormented Trudy Powell, 27, by phoning her more than 130 times in a single month and twice broke into her home.

During the nine-month stalking campaign, Miss Pow-ell once found McEwen hiding behind her bedroom door as she discussed security with a ooliceman.

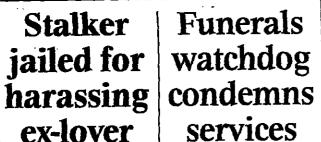
Passing sentence at Winchester Crown Court, Assistant Recorder Gavin Chalmers told McEwen that he had shown "no respect for her [Miss Powell's] privacy or her fælings."

McEwen, of Bradfield, near Reading Berkshire, admitted causing actual bodily harm He became obsessed with Miss Powell when their three year relationship ended. They had lived together and he found the break-up difficult to accept. He was arrested several times around her home.

Christopher Parker, for the prosecution, said Miss Powell, of Bordon, Hampshire, had became paranoid, suffered headaches and disturbed sleep. She consulted a psychiatrist, was tearful and constantly looking over her shoulder. He said: "She changed from a normally bubbly outgoing personality into someone suffering from depressive

Simon Carr, for the defence, aid McEwen had wanted to talk to Miss Powell about the relationship and his property. which he had tried to retrieve. But Miss Powell found his approaches threatening.

Paying over £250 for



By SARA McConnell

A WOMAN whose husband's ashes were lost by a funeral company has been awarded £2,650 for her distress, the highest compensation payby the Funeral ment Ombudsman.

Professor Geoffrey Woodroffe, the ombudsman, said three payments of more than £1,000 had been made. In one case a couple were awarded E1,600 when their baby's body was left in the funeral parlour instead of being taken to the

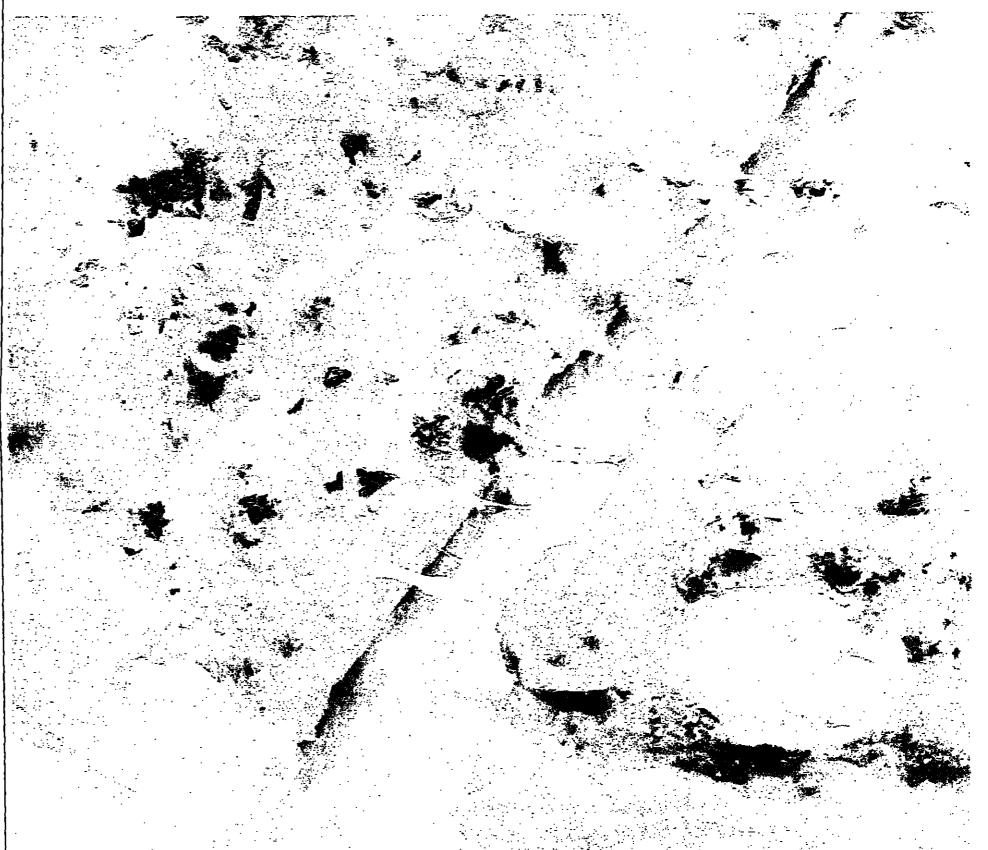
Publishing his annual report yesterday, Professor Woodroffe expressed concern that higher payments could be a sign of further deterioration in the service offered by funeral directors. While the number of complaints remained about the same, compensation payments had increased and exceeded £1,000 for the first time. The average payment was £814 in the seven cases upheld.

About three quarters of the complaints related to cremations, the most common form of funeral Problems with the disposal of ashes headed the list. Professor Woodroffe said: "Sometimes ashes are scattered when the family wished them to be retained for burial. Sometimes burial takes place without the funeral director notifying the family. Occasionally ashes are temporarily

Professor Woodroffe said he had to reject nearly 60 per cent of complaints received last year because the funeral companies were outside the ombudsman scheme.

CORRECTION

It was with the help of Margaret Herbertson (now Pawley) that Lady Templer (obituary. April 7) set up the Malayan Women's Institute, rather than with that of Margaret Herbison MP. Lady Templer founded the Commonwealth Society for the Deaf. Sir Gerald Templer was Constable of the Tower of London, and founded the National Army



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Health officials claim key proposals arising from deadly outbreak have been watered down

Butchers told to bear cost of E.coli hygiene measures

By Shirley English and Michael Hornsby

ABOUT 12.000 butchers' shops across the United Kingdom will be forced to spend up to £20,000 improving hygiene as a result of the report into Scotland's E.coli 0157 food poisoning epidemic which

killed 18 people. Under the 32 recommendations made by Professor Hugh Pennington, all butchers selling raw and cooked meat who are not already registered under the Food Safety Regulations, 1994, will have to be licensed. Shops will also have to have strict separation in the storage, production, sale and display of unwrapped raw and cooked meat and, where possible, separation of staff involved. That represents a softening of the original recommendations made in the interim report, which said that when handling raw and cooked products, different staff would have to be used.

The recommendations were accepted by Michael Forsyth, Scottish Secretary, on behalf of the Government Labour, the Scottish National Party and the Liberal Democrats criticised Mr Forsyth for failing to go further to protect the public. The official report stopped short of recommending an independent food standards agency, a plan endorsed by Labour.

The report means that the Meat Hygiene Service will be given additional powers to enforce high standards in abattoirs and in the transportation of livestock. Farms must present cattle for slaughter in a "dry and clean" condition.

The report states that all raw meat should be treated as though, it is contaminated. Further research into the E.coli 0157 bacterium is also

Publishing his recommendations yesterday, Professor Pennington, a microbiologist at Aberdeen University, said he hoped that if all 32 proposals were implemented, they would prevent another outbreak in Britain.

He added that the time had come, in the face of such a "dangerous and unpleasant organism", to end the "lighttouch approach to enforce-

ment that had been prevalent. The professor said that it was not his remit to go into the circumstances of the Lanarkshire outbreak last November which affected 400 people, or to apportion blame; that would be covered by the fatal accident inquiry. He could

> er that is feasible in a busy The National Federation of Meat and Food Traders. which represents 3,000 of Britain's 12,000 local butchers, said it was pleased by the "more realistic" tone of the

final report. Sainsbury's said that it would ensure that sausages, bacon and black pudding were treated as fresh meat and not included with cooked meats on counters.

make no comment about John

M. Barr & Son, of Wishaw,

He said: "The existing regu-

lations are inconsistent, un-

clear and confusing in places

and sometimes difficult to

enforce. Where there has been

a light-touch approach over the past 12 to 18 months, the

Health officials expressed

dismay last night that some

key hygiene recommendations

had been "watered down" in

the final report. The Chartered

institute of Environmental

that the proposals would appear to allow raw and

uncooked meat to be handled

of the institute's food commit-

tee, said: "Professor Pen-

nington has made a massive

shift away from the proposals

on the separate handling of

raw and fresh meat contained

in the interim report in Janu-

ary. He is now saying that

smaller businesses may not be

required to have separate

staff, provided there are wash-

ing facilities in the serving area. Very careful washing, including scrubbing, is needed to be certain of removing

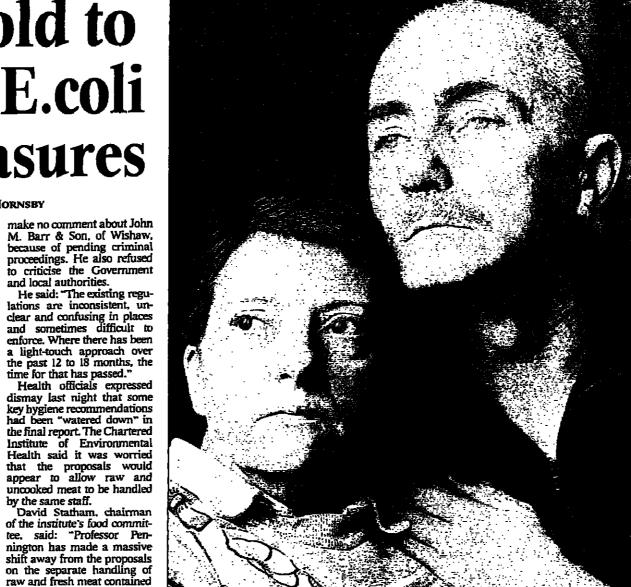
E.coli bacteria. I doubt wheth-

David Statham, chairman

by the same staff.

time for that has passed."

and local authorities.



Mary Cairns and Ian McFarlane want to know exactly what caused the outbreak

Victim given 48 hours to live is afraid to go out

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

FOUR months after the most serious of the E. coli outbreaks, one victim is still suffering after-effects of the devastating illness and struggling to return to normality.

Mary Cairns, 40, of Overtown, Lanarkshire, who was given 48 hours to live after being struck down in November, has lost her short-term memory and has a weakened immune system that makes her afraid to leave her home. The only time she ventures out is to visit hospital for the checks on her heart, kidneys and lungs that will continue for at least a year. She may need kidney dialysis for life.

Days after the outbreak in nearby Wishaw was an-nounced, she became ill. There followed a month-long fight for her life at three hospitals after her kidneys. heart and lungs began to fail.

After weeks of intensive treatment, including kidney dialysis, blood transfusions and ten painful injections a day into her abdomen to stop her blood coagulating, doctors told her partner of six years. Ian McFarlane, she might die.

They said later that she may have been saved by her relative youth and her determhospital on December 20 weighing 6st 7lb. She had lost more than 2st.

Yesterday she said: "At one point I remember saying to lar , I don't think I am going to make it. But then I thought I could not let this illness best me. Now I am slowly getting better, although I am scared to go out in case I catch anything and I'm still wobbly on my

Mr McFarlane, 50, a former bus driver, said: "The thought of losing her, you cannot describe the feelings at the time. It was horrific. She was so ill with constant diarrhoea

for 15 days."
He added: "We would like to know what happened here. That surely was the whole point of the Pennington inquiry. But I believe Professor Pennington has been brought in to find excuses. I don't think he will find anyone to blame."
Paul Santoni, the solicitor

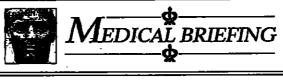
representing Ms Cairns and more than 50 other victims said: "We want to know what the circumstances of the outbreak are. If Professor Pennington does not outline that, then we are looking at his recommendations in isolation and the question has to be, is

Risk from sufferers can last for weeks

apparently recovered from the diarrhoea caused by an infection with E. coli 0157. they may still continue to excrete the bacteria for up to three times as long as adults. The Lancet has recently reported. This carrier state may be intermittent; one set of negative swabs and subsequent bacterial cultures does not prove that the child is free from infection (Dr Thomas

Treating children's E. coli infection with antibiotics does not ensure that they do not

Stuttaford writes).



come carriers, and nor is it possible for the doctor to predict the likelihood of their remaining infectious by as-sessing the severity of the initial symptoms. Some children who had no more than a mild stomach upset may remain infectious for weeks. With others who are very ill, the bacteria is cleared within days. American research has shown that the usual time for an adult to remain infectious. is less than a week. It is at least 17 days in children. It can be much longer.

As a quarter of all cases result from direct spread from others, rather than contamiport underlines the importance of keeping children with diarrhoea away from nursery schools and creches, and the need for staff to practise high

standards of hygiene.
The severity of the complications makes public health precautions essential. When the news that people had been admitted to hospital in Scotland after being infected with E. coli 0157 broke, the first reaction was often "So what just another outbreak of food poisoning". Except for The Times, little publicity was given to the severity of the complications or to the fact that the usual symptoms of food poisoning were as nothing compared to the devastation which could be wrought by haemorrhagic colitus after this bacterial infection.

Young children are particu-larly likely to suffer the haemolytic uraemia syndrome, acute anaemia, failure of the blood clotting mechanism, and renal failure. Some may need dialysis for life, or a kidney transplant. Some elderly survivors have their intellects damaged.

THE NI



Professor Pennington introduces his report yesterday

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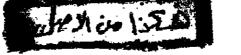
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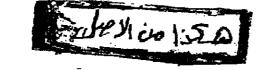
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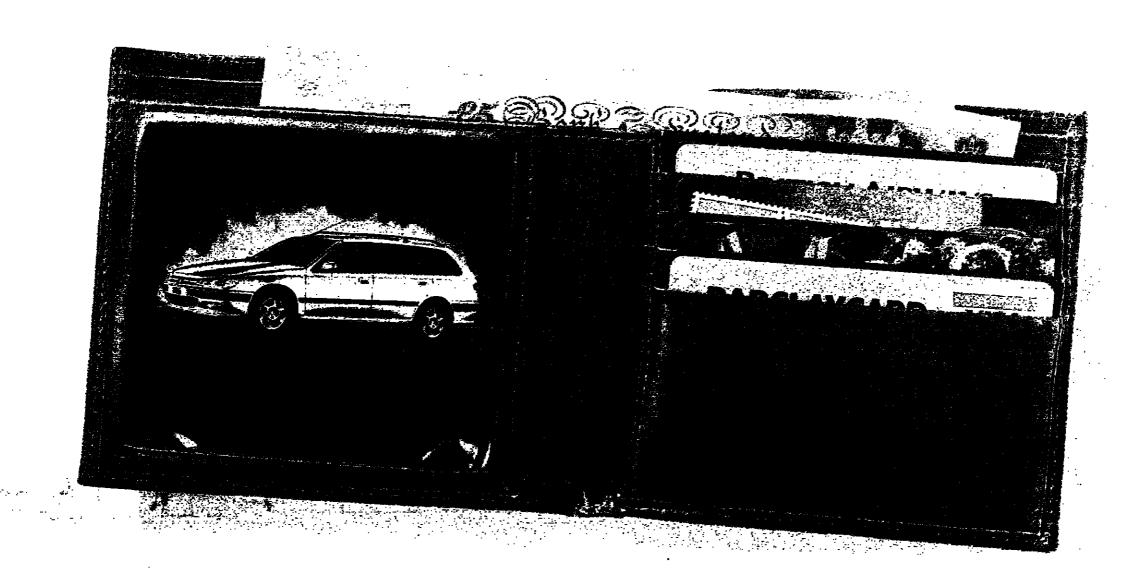
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Scientists solve mystery of how galaxies formed

By NIGEL HAWKES

ASTRONOMERS at Durham University believe they have solved the mystery of how the galaxies formed

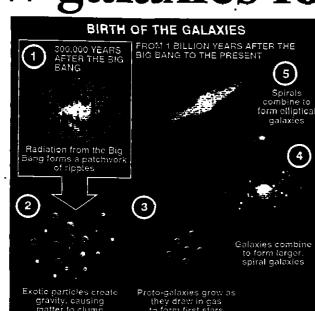
By combining theory with new observations from telescopes on land and in space. they have produced a complete description of the evolution of the galaxies, beginning a few hundred thousand years

after the Big Bang.
Strong supporting evidence has come from images taken by the Hubble Space Telescope and the Keck Observatory in Hawaii, which can see objects so distant that they appear as they were a billion years after the Big Bang, less than a tenth of the age of the universe. In these shots, a Frenk has identified "protogalaxies" only a thousandth as large as today's galaxies.

We predicted the existence of these objects before they ere seen," Professor Frenk said yesterday. "It's fairly rare to make predictions in astronomy and see them come true."

The results are to be presented tomorrow at the National Astronomy Meeting at Southampton University by Dr Carlton Baugh, also from Durham. They worked with Dr Shaun Cole of Durham and Dr Cedric Lacey of the Theoretical Astrophysics Centre in Copenhagen.

The first stage in the genesis



the galaxies, Professor Frenk says, were the "ripples in space" found by Nasa's Cosmic Background Explorer satellite. These tiny variations in the radiation that bathed the universe soon after the Big Bang, still detectable today in the form of microwave radiation, were the seeds from which stars formed.

The next step occurs when matter begins to form clumps, under the influence of gravity created by a universe full of exotic particles, known as cold dark matter. "We don't know what these particles were, but it doesn't matter for the theory," Professor Frenk says. "All that matters is that they created the gravity which

brought material together to

form the embryonic galaxies.

As these grew bigger, they began to pull in gas from space. This gas was initially

very hot but as it was pulled in

it cooled, radiating energy and turning into stars." These are the primeval gal axies, now identified as real from telescope images of the deep sky. The first evidence came from the William Herschel Telescope in the Canary Islands, a British instrument, and the tell-tale sign was that had part of their light spectrum obscured by the gas clouds that surrounded them. from the Hubble and Keck elescopes have confirmed the findings, and found still more primeval galaxies.

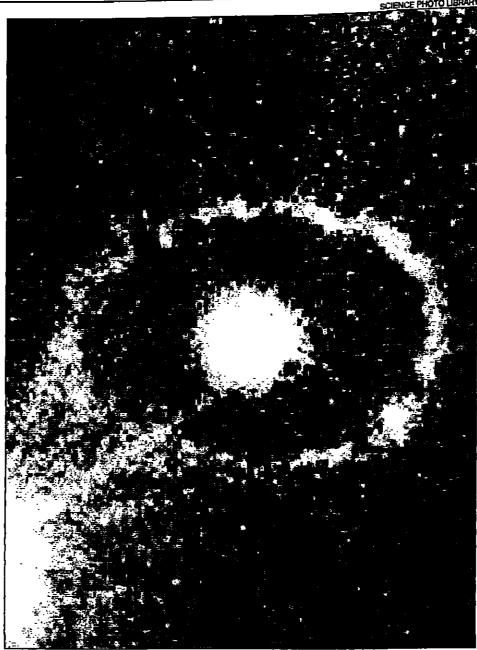
The proto-galaxies grew by

colliding with one another and merging into increasingly galaxies, large galaxies, Professor Frenk says. This process, which began about a billion years after the Big Bang, continues at slower speed today. Its products are the typical spiral galaxies of which our own, the Milky

This is not the end of the process, however. The evi-dence is that spiral galaxies continue to collide with one galaxies.

collide with the Andromeda galaxy in ten billion years. But by then, any effects on human beings will be academic. If we have not devised a way of leaving the solar system, we will be long dead, as the Sun has only about another five billion years to go before it flares into a red giant and destroys the inner planets.

Professor Frenk compares the process of explaining the evolution of the galaxies with that of piecing together the life of an individual from pictures taken as a baby, an infant, a



An ultraviolet image taken by the Hubble Space Telescope shows the supernova 1987A, surrounded by a circular shell of gas, with a foreground star at bottom left

Strange supernova may be result of stellar cannibalism

By Nigel Hawkes

THE brightest supernova since 1604 was the result of the explosion of a star that had earlier consumed its partner in an act of stellar cannibalism, the National Astronomy Meeting will be told

The supernova, known as 1987A, was observed on February 23 ten years ago and has proved something of a mystery. Sudden flares in the sky are the results of stars exploding, but the star whose destruction caused 1987A was much smaller than usual — a blue supergiant, about 40 times the size of the Sun, rather than the expected red supergiant, more than 1,000

times the size of the Sun. There was also a strange veil, or nebula, surrounding what was left of the exploded star, and material from the star's core was mixed with

that from its outer layers. Dr Philipp Podsiadlowski of Oxford University will tell the conference that the explanation lies in the strange history of the star. It started as one member of a pair, which combined about 30,000 to

60,000 years ago. The process took only a few years, resulting in a rapidly-spinning star containing thoroughly-mixed material from its companion. Because it was spinning so fast, it was unable to shrink without throwing off material to create a disc

Then it did shrink to become a blue supergiant, before finally exploding. Only this sequence of events can explain the strange anomalies of the supernova, according to Dr Podsiadłowski.

☐ British astronomers are preparing for the launch of a major space mission this year which will land a probe on the surface of Saturn's largest moon, Titan. A rocket carrying the Cassini-Huygens spacecraft will blast off from Cape Canaveral on October 6.

Seven years and two billion miles later, the spacecraft should reach Saturn. The European Space Agency's Huygens probe will detach from the Cassini orbiter and parachute drop into the orange clouds that surround Titan. No-one can predict whether it will land on a solid frozen surface or an ocean of liquid ethane and methane.

Telescope to seek new forms of life in deep space

WORK is beginning on a giant deep-space telescope designed to search for life outside the solar system. The spacecraft, named after Charles Darwin, will have the task of seeking out new life on alien worlds. Unlike the starship Enterprise in Star Trek, however, it will be unmanned.

The Darwin Space Infrared Interferometer will be more than 100 metres wide, and will consist of six small telescopes 50 metres apart. Signals from each telescope would be sent to a central part of the spacecraft and combined in a technique known as interferometry.

This will allow great sensitivity in picking up signals in the infrared region of the spectrum. Using infrared means that the satellite should not be so easily blinded by radiation from each star as it tries to pick out planets in orbit around it.

Stars shine a billion times brighter than planets, which is why it is impossible to see planets orbiting distant stars using an optical telescope. But at infrared wavelengths stars are only a million times brighter, greatly improving the odds of detecting a planet.

Although it has long been assumed that stars other than the Sun do have planets, there has not been much supporting evidence. From its station somewhere between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter, Darwin should be able to observe such planets directly and perhaps pick up evidence of water which would show that they possess oceans. Even more exciting would be the discovery of ozone, which could only be produced by oxygen, and which in turn is proof of the existence of life.

Preliminary studies of the project have been launched recently by the European Space Agency, and it will be discussed at the National Astronomy Meeting in Southampton on Friday by Dr Alan Penny of Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxfordshire.

search on 300 stars which lie within 50 light years of Earth virtually next door, in astronomical terms. The telescope will be able to determine if there are Earth-sized planets around nearby stars, and to examine their spectra (wavelengths of light) to see if they have an atmosphere like the Earth's," Dr Penny said.

Three years ago I would have thought this was a farfetched idea. But we've been looking at the technology for a while now and I'm optimistic. There are already military structures of this size, and the design is also looking feasible with today's technology."

Dr Penny said the Darwin deep-space telescope would probably cost about £500 million, and could be launched around 2015

Fishing basket may have caught Henry VIII's lunch

By A STAFF REPORTER

ARCHAEOLOGISTS believe a wicker fishing basket uncovered in the moat at the Tower of London could have been used to catch fish for Henry VIII's table.

The basket, shaped like a fish trap, is in what used to be called the West Moat, west of the White Tower, which was a fishing area used exclusively for the Royal Household in the 16th century. Close to it are the backbones of two carp.

Graham Keevill, director of the excavation, said the basket dated from the late 15th century to the middle of the 16th century, when fish from the moat would have been cooked for the Royal Household. Henry ruled from 1509 until his death in 1547.

Mr Keevill said: "To unearth something like this in a moat anywhere would be very interesting, but to find it in a World Heritage Site is extremely important. The dis-covery backs up all the documentary sources we have on this period.

"Artefacts made from organic materials such as wicker rarely survive due to bacterial decay from the soil." Conservation experts believe that the basket was preserved by water levels in the clay and by being buried four metres below the surface.

The nine-strong team of archaeologists noticed pieces wickerwork protruding



A Beefeater with the fishing basket at the Tower

from the trench on Monday evening but delayed unearthing it to stop it drying out. Yesterday they prepared to lift the fragile basket with the block of soil in which it is lying by slipping a piece of timber underneath it.

Experts say that an airtight

container will be needed to ensure that the basket remains waterlogged and that oxygen is kept out to prevent decay. When the basket is taken out today, it will be moved immediately to Hampton Court for conservation treatment.

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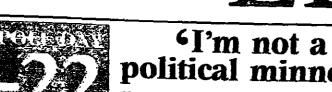
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ELECTION 97



political minnow?

■ Is Martin Beli a saint? -- Christopher Walker p11

B Percit orn bus politicians eilitza 🎉 ~ Lieblater 1833 **■** Who is the feisty Mrs **Hamilton?** - Andrew Pierce p11



The church report says most of the things Blair's advisers have not allowed into Labour's manifesto

Howard hits the temple trail



Joe Joseph hears the Home Secretary tell Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus that strict immigration controls go hand in hand with better race relations

AS HE shuffled in and out of three religious temples in the marginal, Labour-held constituency of Illord South yesterday morning. Michael Howard's mouth kept saying: "Thank you for inviting me". But you could tell his brain kept asking: "What captions are Private Eye going to put under these photographs of me with a hankie on my head and a big red spot in the middle of my forehead?"

Conservative Central Office generally leaves nothing to chance, especially when a high-profile Cabinet minister such as the Home Secretary is on the march. The day before Mr Howard made his visit to a Sikh temple, a mosque and a Hindu centre in the northeast London constituency, detectives had driven the route looking for problems and potential dangers.

The central office staff who descended on liford with Mr Howard carried dossiers about the candidates, contentious local issues, past voting patterns and projected voting patterns. But nobody seemed to have reminded Mr Howard that entering a Sikh temple would involve not just taking his shoes off but also

putting a hankie on his head. The way Michael Howard pronounces it, a trip to see hospital visit. But the 70 or so Sikhs who welcomed the Home Secretary to their tem-— once a Labour hall were fizzing with health and could not have been more welcoming to a man who had come to tell them that strict immigration controls went hand in hand with better race relations. It was a theme that echoed throughout the morning as Mr Howard tried to shrug off his reputation for being hostile to immigrants. Sir Neil Thorne, who held

the seat from 1979 to 1992,

when he was ousted by Labour's Mike Gapes, must have practised at home first: he chose a tasteful blue hankie and managed to wrap it around his head like a bandana, giving him the air of a pukkah, if ageing, hippy. Mr Howard, by contrast, looked like a man who had skived off work on a hot afternoon and decamped to Southend.

As he eased off his Gieves and Hawkes black slip-ons and the hankie was tied on his head, the cameras flashed like firecrackers. It was one of those moments when you can see what makes an MP question why he is in politics.

At his next stop, a spangly new marble-lined mosque, Mr Howard was relieved that he only had to keep taking his shoes on and off, but even this began to pall. When a latecomer photographer asked him to re-enter the temple for a quick snap, he snapped back: "Oh, let's just do it here, Sir Neil - presumably not

a bosom ally of Mr Howard since it was from his Cowley Street house that John Major ran his leadership re-election campaign in 1995 - apologised to the Muslim community for the lack of notice they given of Mr Howard's visit. He blamed the fact that with terrorism always raising its ugly head, it was important to keep the Home Secretary's movements secret until the last minute. We waited for Mr Howard to mention that Salman Rushdie was a man who also had to keep his movements secret as a result of death threats from certain quarters. But Mr Howard did not get where he is today without realising that what counts at elections is votes not virtue. So what he said was: "I'm delighted to have had the opportunity of visiting your lovely new mosque." It

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Michael Howard kept his smile firmly in place yesterday as he camaigned at a Hindu temple, left, a Sikh temple, centre, and a mosque. At the first he was adorned with a vermilion spot, and at the second a "hankie". At the third, where he only had to keep taking his shoes on and off, the smile slipped a little as he snapped at a photographer

sounded corny, but at election time it is a vote-winner.

About 40 people were waiting when he strolled round the corner to the colourful Vishwa Hindu Parishad Temple, where it was the start of the 10-day-long Navratras festival, devoted to Veshnu Devi, the goddess of wealth, wisdom, learning and power. Maybe also of embarassment: an eager-to-please Hindu priest pressed his vermilion-dipped finger on to the Home

Secretary's forehead. As the flashguns went off again, Mr Howard gave the startled but resigned look of someone who has been Tangoed.

It was time for a light snack of samosas, onion bhajis and tea, First, Mr Howard needed to visit the bathroom. By the time he had returned two minues later, the vermilion spot had miraculously vanished. If he can perform that kind of magic on May I, the Tories may still have a chance.

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Clark goes Awol as top brass wait to hear him speak

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

reputation for going his own way and yesterday he accomplished a vanishing act which upset his election campaign agent and a lecture hall full of top brass from the three Armed Services.

He was due to have given a lecture about the defence establishment at the Royal United Services Institute (Rusi) in Whitehall, Invitees included Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff and a resident of Mr Clark's campaign constituen-

cy of Kensington and Chelsea. Mr Clark, his constituency office insisted, was on his way. Rusi officials were told when they telephoned anxiously just before 1pm. The 150 or so people crammed into the lecture hall were asked to wait patiently. Mr Clark, they were told, had confirmed only last Friday that he would be giving

his lecture. Fifteen minutes later, an embarrassed Rusi official had to announce that Mr Clark,

ALAN Clark always had a after all, was not going to arrive and the assembled guests, including foreign defence attachés, trooped back to their offices.
Rusi officials had made

contact with Mr Clark in person who informed them he was "helping a friend with the election". He also said he had dictated a letter two weeks ago, calling off the lecture. Barbara Lord, his constitu-

ency agent, however, gave a different story. She said: "I don't know where he is. He came in briefly this morning and then left. I thought he waa going to give the lecture. I can be devious when I want to be when talking to the press but I'm telling the truth."

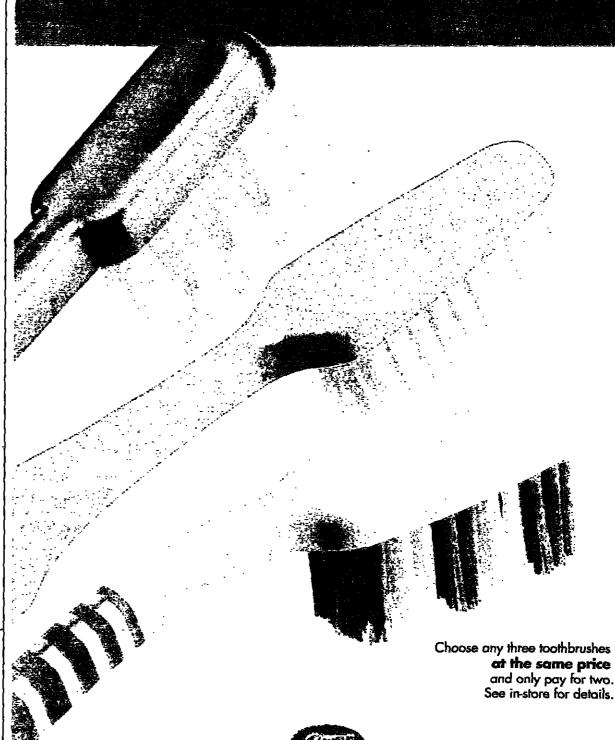
Mr Clark later said it was

just a case of double-booking. He accused the MoD of causing mischief by telling the failed to turn up. In fact, it had nothing to do with the MoD. A Press Association reporter and this correspondent were in-

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promises they gave so freely last time-and how none of them made any difference at all to the steady deterioration in the quality of what really matters in our lives.

The family, the very basis of our civilisation, remains under attack as never before, undermining our whole social fabric. A culture of violence, fed by an unprincipled media, grips whole communities, leaving decent people to despair and live in fear. When they turn to their politicians for help, they find them too busy feathering their own nests to care.

In the same year that nurses were refused a paltry pay rise

of only 3%, MPs did not stint from voting themselves a whacking 26% increase - and, yes, they also voted to spend £6 million to improve their tea room.

They did so while children awaiting treatment die for lack of resources in the NHS. As pensioners are mugged and raped because the police lack the manpower to protect them. While teachers are attacked, even murdered, because discipline and learning in too many of our classrooms have given way to truancy and a culture of new barbarism.

Too many MPs are busy sticking their greedy snouts in the trough to care. In 1996, 315 Conservative MPs held 287 well-paid directorships and 146 consultancies; and 29 Labour MPs shared 60 directorships and 43 consultancies.

Our politics are steeped in sleaze and corruption. Six MPs have resigned in the wake of the "Cash-for-Questions" revelations, including a government minister. Indeed, judging by that scandal, just about the only people enjoying a better life since you last voted are MPs themselves.

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I shall work full-time as my constituents' Member of Parliament, and not take backhanders from businessmen to act for them in the House of Commons, or any other paid consultancies. Yes \square No \square

I shall make a full declaration before the Election of my financial interests and publicly update this record for as long as I am an MP.

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No

I shall work in Parliament and co-operate with others to seek an end to the current culture of violence in our society, particularly among the young. Yes \square No \square

I shall listen to the concerns of my constituents about the need to give far greater priority in all Government policies to family and community. Yes \square No \square

I shall promote reform of our antique Constitution to ensure that every vote cast in an election is of equal value and that Britain's voters are empowered with the maximum choice in future elections. Yes \square No \square

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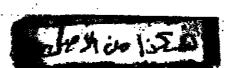
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once dreamed of becoming an MP, but resisted the urge because she did not want to be

in the firing line. However, her extraordinary public showdown with Martin Bell

resterday was the latest in a

long line of publicity stunts

she has masterminded as she

shares the limelight with her

The redoubtable Chrstine

Hamilton, 47, is unlike the

traditional Tory politician's blue-suited wife. Far from

gazing from the wings, she

leads from the front and does

most of the talking for him. If

John Major had telephoned

Neil Hamilton to try to per-

suade him to stand down.

their friends joke that the

forceful wife would have tak-

Mrs Hamilton is the domi-

nant personality in Tatton

Conservative Association. She

abandoned her own aspira-

tions as an MP to further her

husband's, and friends say

that she has sacrificed too

much already to allow their

joint career to crumble with-

out a fight to the end. If Mr

Hamilton had ever consid-

ered throwing in the towel

during the darkest days of the

cash-for-questions controver-

sy, his wife has bolstered his

resolve. Married in 1983, she

has been her husband's secre-

tary since he became an MP

the same year. Their honey-

has her own

Hamilton: made

key introductions

moon was disrupted by the

election campaign, and decid-

ed not to have children. Their

marital motto is WDTT: "We

It is Mrs Hamilton -

rather than her husband -

who is at the centre of the web

of influence which prompted

the cash for questions contro-

versy. She made the fateful

introduction of her husband

to Ian Greer, the lobbyist

whose business empire col-

lapsed in the aftermath of the

She worked in the House of

Commons as secretary to Sir

Michael Grylls, the Tory MP

whose undeclared commis-

sion payments from Mr

Greer are also at the centre of

do things together."

sleaze" scandal.

vehemently deny.

was overturned six months,

later she was photographed weeping and hugging the

MP, clutching a piece of lucky

white heather. Loyalty has its

rewards: he gave her a gleam-

In the early 1980s, she set

her sights on a parliamentary career having studed politics at York, where she was

friends with Harvey Proctor,

later the MP for Billericay. He

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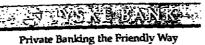
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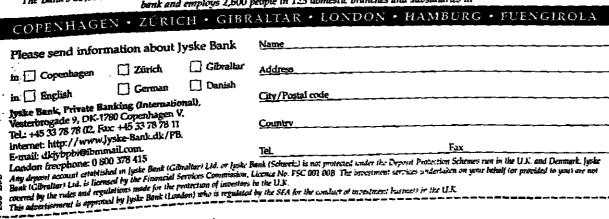
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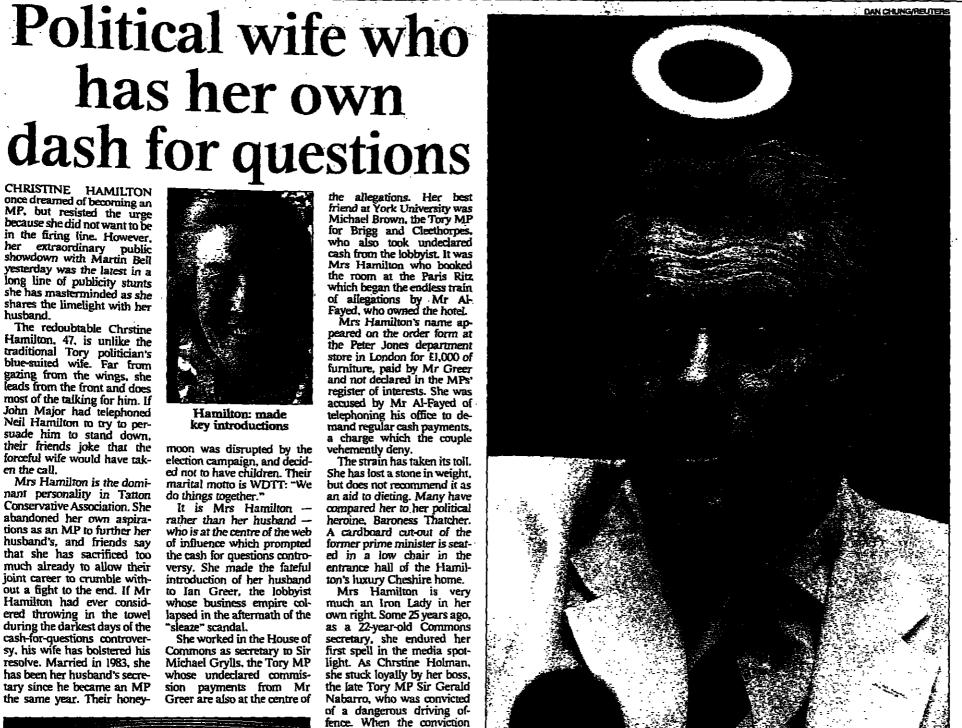
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High profiles: Andrew Pierce on Christine Hamilton, and Christopher Walker on Martin Bell

Aura of power. Martin Bell, under the lights, speaking to the press in Tatton

face in an incident at Mr Proctor's Surrey shirt shop, it was Mrs Hamilton who chased their assailants.

After the celebrated clash on BBC Newsnight between Mr Hamilton and Alan Rushridger, editor of the Guardian, the journalist was persuaded not to enter the hospitality suite.

resigned his sear in 1987 after An assistant producer told being convicted for indecency. When her husband and Mr him: "Christine Hamilton is roctor were nunched in the

nose. We suggest you leave by another exit."

Mrs Hamilton has a knack for securing almost as much publicity as her husband. She was by his side during their celebrated photo-opportunities, such as when he "declared" a gingernut biscuit after being given a free box during a factory tour. His ministerial career was over

days later. Only last week, on a tour of

the damage left by an IRA bomb in their constituency, it was Mrs Hamilton who declared: "I can see the Guard-

ian headline now — Sleaze MP tries to divert attention." Mrs Hamilton rejects the phrase "the power behind the Tatton throne" as a cliché, but she is flattered that people think she could succeed her husband: "At least they would not have to change the election posters."

A professional with the heart of a patriot

MARTIN BELL fits virtually none of the stereotypes associated with veteran war correspondents beyond a personal brand of bravery that always went far beyond the egocentric call of the frontline cam-

era lens.

Bell was a loner rarely to be found propping up a har in some outpost and entertaining colleagues with colourful Among a breed known for their humour, he was always rather dour and, luckily for his present political ambitions, never got carried away with the type of romps which often follow a hard day in the

battlefield.
"I think that the main secret of Martin's longevity as a war reporter, certainly in his later years, was that he was an early to-bed man who preferred to get up the next morning early and be fit for work," one colleague said yesterday. "He was always an inveterate early riser. His habits were just part of his sheer professionalism."

I first came across Bell in Northern Ireland and met him again during the 1990-1991 Gulf War, in 1994 we flew out from London together to cover what was wrongly feared to be a second Iraqi invasion of Kuwait I never heard him talk politics, al-though he did sometimes argue about news stories from a moral point of view. "Martin was that rare

breed, an old-fashioned patriot," another admiring colleague said. "In Yugoslavia he had a ritual every morning whereby he would raise the Union flag on his car or on the BBC office - I cannot remember which. He was the sort of person whose eyes would go moist at the sound of Elgar."

While most war correspondents, particularly those working for television companies anxious for "bangbang" footage over serious analysis, appeared to be risking their lives primarily for personal glory, there was with Beli always a strong sense of duty. Many writing journalists saw him as a soldier mangue

There are friends who claim that Bell had a "chip on his shoulder" about not getting a commission when he did his National Service in the Suffolk Regiment. He has always believed that he made only the grade of acting sergeant, after failing the officer test, because he was too "independent and critical of authority".

Bell's scrupulous personal honesty is vouched for by BBC colleagues and rivals alike. In a Radio 4 broadcast yet to be transmitted he sets out his position that "news and money do not mix". During his four-part series The Truth is Our Currency he says. "I did not join the BBC to make my fortune." He acknowledges, however, that many television reporters have in the past made illicit fortunes through fiddied expenses.

Despite his austere image, Bell was always one of the most popular of BBC correspondents with his crews. He would always take their needs into account, rather like an officer with his men. An American television correspondent said: "And he would always go with them into the hairiest spots, rather than let them bring back the film for a safe commentary from base

Some of those who have known Bell in the past had assumed that, because of his taste for "old British values", under that trademark white suit a Tory heart might beat.

BBC colleagues attribute his sudden plunge into the political arena to a combination of deep disaffection with John Birt's BBC, a reaction to the horrors of Bosnia, impending old age and a reluctance to go quietly along what one described as "an increasingly unproductive road towards retirement".

"The trouble with you Corporal Bell," his signals officer, a Captain Pat Hopper, once complained with persoicacity, "is that you think too much."

MATTHEW PARRIS

ondon does not begin to under-stand Tatton. Ranged against Martin Bell there are now two forces whose potency the London media simply fail to recognise. Our blindness leads to misjudgment - and led Mr Bell to the fantastic belief that he would be able to step down today. having despatched Neil Hamilton last night Instead, he may have thrown

Driving force: Christine Hamilton in 1972 with

him a lifeline. Local Tory associations are quite capable of ditching their MPs but they do not do so at the command of those outside their gates, in particular, at the command of Conservative Central

Office or the media. Rather like those Saudi princes who cannot accept that what British newspapers print is beyond the control of British governments, Fleet Street columnists have always found it hard to accept that local Conservative associa-

tions are sovereign. Yet they guard autonomy fiercely. Their independence from Central Office. a Tory Cabinet, from a Prime Minister himself, is real and jealously guarded. If John Major had forbidden Tatton Tories from adopting a Mexican rattlesnake as their candidate, they would have sought one out and

adopted it, just to show they could. Second. London completely fails to appreciate how shire and suburban Tories view the BBC. Martin Bell may have become the anti-sleaze candidate but by his candidature he has con-firmed Neil Hamilton as the anti-BBC candidate. There are votes for such a candidate in Tatton. Many Tories beyond the Westminster pale (and some within) would simply fail to recognise Islington's, The Guardian's, and perhaps even The Times's view of the BBC as a staid, neutral, even

conservative corporation. It is regarded as little short of subversive. To such a view, think how Mr Bell's candidature will look. Where is he from? The BBC. Who put him up to it?

The partner (can you hear the sucking of teeth in Cheshire at the word pariner) of Kate Hooey, a Labour MP. The case rests: or will, to many in

Not to all, of course. Many in Cheshire as elsewhere admire him. Many in Tatton despise Mr Hamilton. They will vote for Bell. But if London ever thought this candidature was a way of depriving Hamilton of his natural supporters, that only shows how fallible are those commentators who pride themselves on keeping an ear to the ground, when the ground is the green grass of provincial England. And to think they used to call it the Manchester Guardian.



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Flying through a black hole in the middle of a dream

THE April Tempest of Britain's general election campaign is half over.

And, like the baseless fabric of this vision ... shall dissolve. And, like this insubstantial pageant faded. leave not a rack behind."

But this insubstantial page cant will leave a new government. How is the pageant going? Shakespeare, that architect of dreams, would have been fascinated. For I have to keep pinching myself.

This campaign has all the characteristics of a restless night. Its elements have been fantastic, unbelievable. The logic escapes us. The action has seemed rooted in no clear narrative — new sideshows start, then spin off into space or trail into the sand.

Like a dream in which the plot, the places, the faces change without explanation. the general election story keeps switching. There has been a sense of buried hysteria: despair among the losers, of course, but — far more



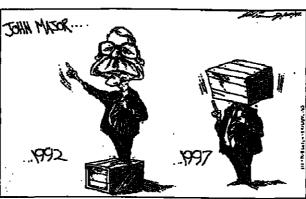
MATTHEW PARRIS

party. Among those of us who have followed the political circus from street, to hall, to village green, the fear almost palpable - hanging in the air above Mr Blair. combined with so aggressive a grip on presentation that it breathes over-confidence, presents an amalgam of two opposites, fear and swagger. which is almost impossible to

man trying to fly by means of instructions in his earpiece. The manual is sound. The instructions perfect. Everything is going fine. But, having no feel for flying, the evidence around him never allays a ghastly interior terror that he is going to crash. How shall we remember

this campaign? Out of the dark, chickens loom and dance and fight. Two bears with placards and no discernible purpose; a fox, a rhino ... but why? Nor did the animals add to the sense of unreality. If anything they introduced a cosy and familiar note, after a week in which the talk was all of a girl called Anna and an MP called Piers whom nobody remembered, and whether they snogged in the park.

Then, all at once, there was Tony Blair Trade Union Scare story. For a day, new Labour seemed to be sturnbling. Few of the questions then asked were ever answered, but after two day, the



The election as seen by Cummings of the Winnipeg Free Press, left, and Schrank of the Basler Zeitung

Where? Why? But attention switched. The Tories were blocking a television confrontation between party leaders ... then, all at once, they weren't, and it was Labour who were blocking it.

Then came the Tory chick-en. But is it true that Mr Blair has blocked the debate? And, if so, why? Too late to ask: the dream has swerved away and nobody talks about it. Like Mr Major's soap box. Now they have hydraulic plat-



forms sliding from their and almost nobody reported it. The story had moved to Mr There was a "black hole" in Gordon Brown's spending Hamilton. A BBC war corresplans, then there wasn't, then pondent, Martin Bell was to stand against him as an anti-... it isn't clear. The black hole has spun off into oblivion.

... And now, surely, we were dreaming? A journalist standing against a politician on an "honesty" platform! Mr Bell said he would resign if Mr Hamilton would. On present form, by the weekend it will be dead but nobody

adopted without dissent will report its death, or explain. Perhaps it is time for more animals. On Sunday, as Mr Blair struggled to break free from

sleaze candidate. about Scotland and an English parish council, I was approached by a BBC local radio journalist who asked me if anyone had reported that the Labour Leader had been wearing an earpiece at a Sheffield football ground last week. He was there and had

wondered why nobody had mentioned it. On Monday I put this to a London friend, a celebrated political commentator. That was a Central Office lie," he said. "Mill-bank denies it. The video is inconclusive.

"But this fellow says he saw it. Was he dreaming?"
"London says it's lie." And that story, too, spun off into space as reports came in that the Labour High Command was eacking elderly and dis-tings shed MPs within hours of their readoption as candidates. Or was I dreaming?

It seems unlikely, but must be true, that this fantasy stage-set of dry ice, ugty rumours, black holes and soap-boxes, special effects, chicken-suits and stailed debates on policy will produce, on May 2, a new government. It seems impossible that Labour could lose their balance now. But we are only 23 days into a 46-day campaign. The way it's looking, anything

Major pledges to ease burden on small businesses

By Arthur Leathley JOHN MAJOR tried to outflank the Labour Party over business policy yesterday by promising to transfer an £800 million tax burden from small businesses to Britain's

The Prime Minister pledged to remove the widely-criticised Uniform Business Rate from 140,000 businesses and to reduce the charge for a further 600,000 firms if the Conservatives were re-elected.

The promises came as he tried to undermine Labour's claims to protect small companies by telling businessmen that Tony Blair's party would saddle them with higher costs through the minimim wage and through signing up to the social chapter.

Tory ministers have been stunned by Labour's success in wooing the business community and are determined to portray Labour as the enemy of business in spite of its

The chief executive of Jaguar Cars denied Labour claims that he had endorsed the party's plan to give employers a £60-a-week rebate for taking on the young unemployed. Nick Scheele said he supported policies addressing the issue. "But whether this scheme is better than any

other I really don't know."

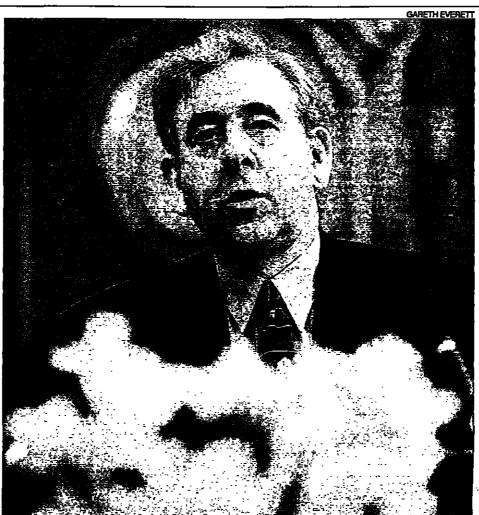
pledges to encourage enter-prise. Mr Major unveiled his plans for the rate reform at a conference in Birmingham before addressing businessmen in the city. He accused Labour of making "big business small" while the Conservatives, he said, had created an economic environment in which entrepreneurs could

The plan to remove the UBR from some firms is centred on the creation of a El,000 "firm's

exempt from the charge imposed by local authorities. The move, which would remove companies with a rateable value of £18,000 from the UBR, would also enable larger firms to pay a reduced rate.

Although Tory sources admitted that the £800m cost of the allowance would lead to higher charges on the larger firms. Mr Major defended himself against charges that he was engaging in a socialist policy of wealth redistribution. He made clear that the UBR added an extra burden of some 8 per cent on turnover for some small firms but that those with turnovers of more than £500,000 a year paid only 1.4 per cent of turnover in business rates.

He said of Labour's conversion to privatisation: "They loathe the creation of wealth. It is a gut instinct for our political opponents and it al-



Meanwhile newspapers call-

ed for two former Tory MPs.

Neil Hamilton in Tatton and

Michael Brown in Clee-

thorpes, to be rejected as

candidates. This brought two

days of headlines but on

Monday Mr Brown

Dafydd Wigley, party president, promises a strong voice for the Welsh yesterday

Plaid calls for 2p tax rise for new jobs

the tentacles of a metaphor

By VALERIE ELLIOTT

THE people of Wales were urged yesterday to vote for a 2p rise in income tax to create 100,000 new jobs when Plaid Cymru launched a radical agenda for government.

Dafydd Wigley, party president, said voters in Wales never asked for tax cuts but cried out for extra cash to be spent on public services. He denied that the move would lead to a recession in Wales or would encourage people to

move away.

Launching the manifesto at
Cardiff City Hall, Mr Wigley set out his vision for a "Powerhouse Parliament", with legislative and tax-raising powers. He believed that such an apparatus of self-government would take about five years and a referendum before it could be fully introduced.

Voters would also decide in referendum if they wanted the Oueen or the Prince of Wales to be head of state of an independent Wales.

Purge of old MPs is denied by Labour

By Staff Reporters

ANOTHER longserving Labour MP has quit, the seventh since the election was called three weeks ago, amid claims that supporters of Tony Blair are leading a purge.

John Gilbert, 70, stepped

down from his Dudley East seat even though his election literature had been printed. He said: I have taken the decision that it is right to make way for a younger candidate." The party leadership has denied claims that MPs are being pressurised into going to make way for younger

candidates preferred by Mr Blair. However, the denials of a purge have been under-mined by Sir Ray Powell; 70. MP for Ogmore since 1979. He said he had been asked to give up his Welsh seat.

It emerged yesterday that Stewart Randall, who resigned from Kingston-upon-Hull West, was at odds with John Prescott; a fellow Hull

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Campaign leaves many cold

tion campaign has still not developed a coherent pattern or caught the public's imagination. It is not just the absence of any real movement in voting intentions (as discussed by Robert Worcester in

the accompanying article). The most revealing of all the many campaign statistics is the finding in the last MORI poll for The Times that just 63 per cent say they are certain to vote, compared with 69 per cent at the same stage in 1992. At present, a mere two-fifths of 18 to 24 year olds. and less than a half of 25 to 34 year olds, say they are certain to vote.

The campaign, which is at the halfway stage, has so far been a turn-off for many; just look at the eagerness of the tabloids to avoid having the election on their front pages. It may partly be a response to all the stories about "sleaze". and diversions in Tatton. which may have produced a "plague-upon-ali-your

people expect a clear Blair victory, there is little evidence of positive enthusiasm for Labour, or of high expectations of what the party would do in office. The safety-first minimalism of the Labour campaign fits the state of the nation. People are sceptical about grand-sounding promises and are merely hoping for small improvements. That is what Labour's focus groups of wavering voters have been telling the party for some time, and several of the five specific election pledges in the Labour manifesto (apart from the pledge to get 250,000 under-25s off the unemploy-ment register) are limited in their ambitions. The mood is more "enough is enough"

than the "dawn of a new The convergence of both main parties on the centre in rhetoric if not detailed policy - has meant that the election exchanges have so far been more about trust and competence than alternative visions or ideologies. Labour



PETER RIDDELL

Tories cannot be trusted — a theme they will revive today on the fifth anniversary of John Major's victory in the 1992 election. By contrast, the Tories have been focusing on Labour's alleged U-turns and chopping-and-changing over policy. There has been little to

Labour's big lead in the polls has also meant a reversal of roles. Tony Blair has been the frontrunner, protect-



excite or inspire.

closing down possible areas of vulnerability. Despite a stormy visit to Scotland last Friday, he has been assured in his two main public performances, when he launched Labour's manifesto on Thursday and when interviewed on Panorama on Monday.

By contrast, Mr Major has been the challenger, trying to

undermine the smoothness of the Labour campaign. Despite occasional irritable remarks over the continued prominence of "sleaze" stories and the Neil Hamilton saga, Mr Major has shown again how resilient and determined a campaigner he is. As he argues in his article for The Times this morning, he believes his Government has a strong record and deserves to be re-elected compared with an untested Labour team which has changed its views. But I wonder how many voters are still willing to be persuaded. Just as Mr Major was given the benefit of the doubt five years ago, so Mr

Polls have yet to show signs of a fight Tories have far to go in so little time, says Robert Worcester of MORI

THE election may be half over, but in the polls it has yet to begin. Thirteen national polls have been conducted in the three weeks since the

campaign began (see table). Of these, all have shown the Conservatives at 30 per cent +/- 3 per cent, 11 out of 13 have shown Labour at 52 per cent +/- 3 per cent, ICM's two polls being the exception, and 12 out of the 13 have shown the Liberal Democrats at 12 per

Sun Telegraph

Mar 20-24

Mar 21-24

Mar 29-31

Apr I

Mar 26-Apr 2

Independent

Independent

Guardian

Sun Times

Reuters

D Telegraph

Harris

MORI

Gallup ICM

ICM NOP

Gallup NOP

cent +/- 3 per cent, again ICM excepted. So much for the headline "polls apart".

This shows little change with the trend before the election was announced. From the beginning of the year to the calling of the election on March 17. 15 of the 17 polls put the Conservatives on 29 per cent +/- 3 per cent, the usually accepted sampling tolerance, while 12 out of 17 showed Labour at 52 per cent +/- 3 per

OPINION POLLS

Mar 27

Con %

cent, and 15 out of 17 showed the Liberal Democrats at 12 per cent +/- 3 per cent.

All the polisters now "adjust" their findings apart from MORI, which believes that the public want to know the real state of the support for the parties, and not the pollsters' estimate of how the "don'tknows" might make up their minds.

The share is more revealing than the gap between the

Swing

16.75

17.5 11.5

Lab LD Oth Gap

10.5

parties, as it is the most accurate and informative. At the last election, the Tories got a 43 per cent share which gave them a 21-seat overall majority. Yet if one Tory voter in 200 had voted for the second party in his or her constituency, it would have been a hung Parliament.

The last time the Tories touched 40 per cent was in September 1992; the month of "Black Wednesday". If they don't get 43 per cent again they will lose office. They've got a long way to go, and only 22 days left to do it.

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Road holding

Christian leaders enter political debate with call for higher taxes to help cut unemployment

Jobs are more than an optional extra, says church report

By RUTH GLEDHILL RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A CHURCH report setting out radical solutions to unemployment was published yesterday and hailed as one of the most coherently argued and authoritative documents to emerge from the ecclesiastical intelligentsia in decades.

Unemployment and the Future of Work argues that work is central to the Christian understanding of the hu-man condition and not an optional extra.

For once, bishops and church leaders are not seen to be merely complaining, but are suggesting solutions that must be judged worthy of debate, at least by all the main political parties. The quiet, unassuming hand behind this achievement is that of Andrew Britton, a leading economist who is a committed Christian and was until recently one of Kenneth Clarke's select band of "wise men".

The report dismisses as unrealistic a theory that longterm unemployment is an acceptable way of life and is hereto stay. It argues for increased taxes to pay for new jobs in health, education, childcare, help for the elderly, tourism, entertainment and maintenance of the environment.

There is plenty of work to be done, work for people who would otherwise be unemployed," it says. "This is work which would meet real needs and at the same time enable more people to make a real

While criticising benefit fraud, the report calls for a drive against fraud by employers and landlords as well as against claimants. "There is something rather unpleasant about the moral indignation of the rich over the dishonesty of

the poor," it says, Quoting the fourth-century church father, St John Chrysostom, the report continues: "If the poor fake, it is out of need that they fake, for it is your merciless inhumanity and your cruelty that forces

Leading article. Philip Bassett.

them to do so." The report also links the present income support system, with its reliance on a household assessment of means, to divorce and separation. "There is a strong incentive for couples to split up and live apart so that one can claim benefit while the other is working," it says.

In one of the most radical sections, the report examines how a stable marriage and bringing up children can be achieved when both husband and wife are working fulltime. It calls for better childcare and examines a suggestion that working hours of all parents

with children under ten should be restricted.

The non-Anglican nature of yesterday. The working party was set up under the auspices of a sponsoring body chaired by the Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard. This body, which included representatives of 11 Christian denominations, was itself set up by the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, an ecumenical body that replaced the British Council of Churches in

Presenting the report at Westminster Central Hall yesterday, Bishop Sheppard said: We are asked whether it is right for the churches to intervene in politics. We reply that underneath social and political issues lie spiritual truths about men and women." He added: "Politicians are not the only people who can bring about change. The churches should properly be seen among the opinion formers who can change the climate of opinion."

Ruth Clarke, representing the United Reformed church, said the report was the product of close partnerships between all the main Christian denominations in Britain and Ireland, and was the first time a church report had been produced in that way.



The constituency of Govan epitomises what the Church means when it talks about political parties failing to address those "in greatest need

Staring deprivation in the face

Magnus Linklater follows a Labour candidate to see Glasgow poverty at its bleakest

MINIMUM WAGE

The report: supports principle of a statutory minimum wage on ground that very low rates of pay now being offered are unjust and offensive to human dignity. Labour: backs a national minimum wage, but rate will be decided later.

Conservatives: against minimum wage. Liberal Democrats: do not support a national minimum, but back regional minimums decided by local commissions.

TAXES.

The report: calls for extension of tax base, and higher rate for big earners. Labour: no rise in income tax; no extension of VAT to food, children's clothes, books, newspapers or public transport.

Conservatives: pledge to reduce basic rate of tax to 20p; no extension of VAT to food. Liberal Democrats: 50p top rate for those earning £100,000; raise basic rate by 1p; take 500,000 low earners out of tax.

WORKERS' RIGHTS

The report: the Working Time Directive on 48-hour limit should be implemented. Supports cutting two-year probation period for protection against unfair dismissal.

back shorter probation period. change on unfair dismissal.

Labour: supports 48-hour limit; does not Conservatives: oppose 48-hour limit; no

Liberal Democrats: back 48-hour limit in principle; back one-year probation period.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The report where a majority of workers wish their union to be recognised, employers should negotiate with it, while respect ing the rights of those who choose not join. Labour, would introduce laws to require majority of the workforce wish it.

Liberal Democrats: same as Labour.

TRADE UNIONS

firms to recognise trade unions if the Conservatives: do not back trade union

Plywood has been nailed to the doorframe of the neighbouring flat; be hind it, more broken glass. We have rung the bell and banged on the letter-box, but there seems no sign of human life in this abandoned place. Then, from inside, we hear a shuffling sound; the bolts are pulled back, and the door opens a crack. A pair of suspicious eyes peer out at our little group. For a moment we stare at each other. And then the candidate

Mohammed Sarwar is seeking to be Britain's first Muslim MP

JOB CREATION

The report: long-term dependency on means-tested benefits offends human dignity, undermines moral values and threatens to produce social instability. Labour: no plans to reduce means-testing.

Conservatives: no plans to reduce means-Liberal Democrats: would phase out means-tested income support and family credit, replacing it with low-pay income.

The report: calls for £2 billion-a-year programme to help long-term unemployed. Labour: a £2.5 billion programme to get 250,000 young people into work. Conservatives: National Insurance waivers for firms taking on long-term unem-

ployed. Bonus of £1,000 for those who get a full-time job after working part-time Liberal Democrats: working benefit programme for long-term unemployed.

politely introduces himself, tells her that Labour is the best way of getting the Tory Government out, and asks her if he can count on her support. She smiles and nods and whispers "Yes" — though whether this is because she means it, or because it is the surest way of getting rid of us is unclear. Then the door is firmly shut. On the evidence of an hour's

polling in this, the most deprived part of Govan, the result, for Labour, should not be in any doubt. Everyone ding to be Britain's first Muslim MP.

we talked to assured Mr Sarwar of their support. By the end of the afternoon he and his agent were beaming. "It's better than I could possibly have imagined." he said, buttoning up his smart blazer and heading for the car.

Labour

War

And yet, if anything is to go wrong for Labour in Scotland, Govan could just where it happens. Redrawn boundaries mean that the owneroccupied suburbs of Pollokshields and Shawlands are now included. The issue of whether new Labour can do anything to compensate for cuts imposed by a cash-strapped council is a key one. And some bitterness still hangs around the circumstances in which Mr Sarwar, 44, the millionaire owner of a cash-and-carry business, won the nomination on a narrow vote amid charges of vote-rigging and intimidation. His notional majority is only 5,609.

Meanwhile, the Scottish National Party has thrown its formidable organisation into regaining the seat which Jim Sillars won in 1988. The SNP candidate. Nicola Sturgeon, a 26-year-old solicitor, is bright, articulate, and tipped as a future party leader. Her pitch is unashamedly for the traditional Labour vote - unhappy about Tony Blair's moves to the Right and weakness on devolution.

Tony Blair has blown the gaffe on new Labour," she says, "Power stays with him. That will go down very badly here." She points to council cuts which have just closed a much-loved swimming-pool, and local tax increases of up to 22 per cent.

All these factors are probably more important than support from Asians who form less than 9 per cent of the electorate. Despite his Pakistani background. Mr Sarwar cannot count on them en bloc. If he does win. and the odds are still on his side, it will be due to white rather than Asian votes. Whether he or anyone else will do much to change things on the twenty-first floor of that 1brox tower

Preachers of social justice are voices crying in the wilderness

ALTHOUGH the Bishop of Liverpool was anxious to emphasise yesterday that the churches' report on unemployment was not intended as a partisan political document. its publication during a general election campaign ensured that it would be viewed as such. But at least government spokesmen have this time reacted with a little more restraint than they showed over Faith in the City a dozen years ago.

In 1985, even before that slightly rhetorical report had been released, a Cabinet member had branded it "a Marxist document". Worse, in some ways. Margaret Thatcher's press secretary, Ber-

nard Ingham, briefing lobby jour-nalists at No 10, had taken it upon himself to declare that in such matters the Church "did not know its arse from its elbow". Peter Lilley's reaction on BBC Radio 4's Today programme was in comparison a model of tact and diplomacy.

It may be that the Conservative Government has simply got used to being criticised by the churches. The days when the Church of England rated as the Tory party at prayer" have long since passed, and it is doubtful roday if even the Liberal Democrats retain the legacy left to them by the SDP (for which Archbishop Runcie, in a



Christian socialism may be back in fashion, but the authors of the churches' report on unemployment criticise all the main political parties, Anthony Howard writes

ON THE twenty-first floor of a tower

block in Ibrox. we wait uneasily by a

battered front door. Down at the end

of a dimly lit corridor, a smashed

window lets in a whistling draught.

Glasgow's south side, and this is

poverty - stark, real, and irredeem-

ably bleak. This, presumably, is what

the Church means when it talks about

the failure of the political parties to

Certainly, as the door creaks open,

the whole exercise of campaigning

seems suddenly shallow. What on earth can it all mean to this frail old

lady who now stands before us? Which candidate can look her in the

eve and promise that from May 2 her

life will begin to improve, that the

damp walls of her flat will be

repaired, the drug-dealers and the

crime will be dealt with, above all,

that her isolation, high up in this

awful building, will come to an end?

To be fair, the candidate does not

even try. Mohammed Sarwar, bid-

address those "in greatest need".

steps forward.

rather questionable constitutional action, cast his vote at the 1983

general election). Nowadays, with figures such as the Most Rev Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh, the Right Rev Peter Selby, soon to be en-throned Bishop of Worcester, and

even the ineffable Archdeacon of York, the Ven George Austin. declared Labour supporters. Christian socialism probably rides higher than at any time since the era of Temple and Cripps.

To be fair, Labour does not escape whipping in the latest report

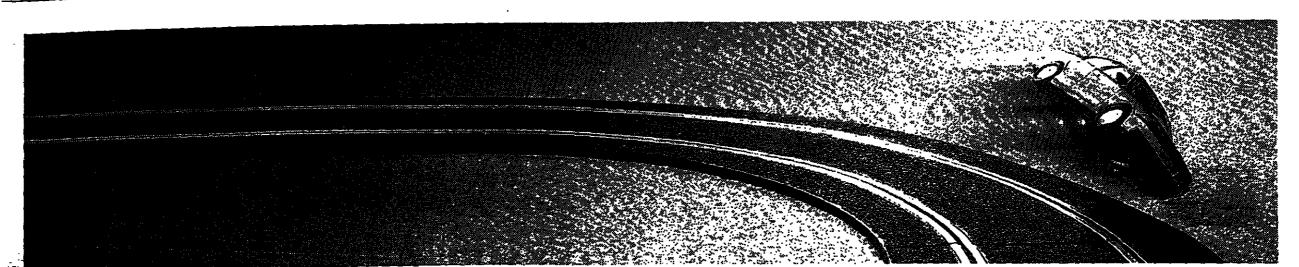
what Ernest Bevin used to call "a poverty of aspiration" not in this case on the part of the working class but rather in the mentality of all political parties; like J. K. Gal-braith, it detects a "culture of contentment" in the leadership of the Labour Party as much as in that of the Tories and the Liberals.

It is probably now true to say that the doctrine of redistribution is upheld far more faithfully among Christians than it is among the ranks of Tony Blair's new Labour Party, for whom it seems to have become a serious heresy. Nor does anyone in todays's complacent

be identified with the dispossessed or the underprivileged. Whoever first said all those years ago, "We are all middle class now did not know how right he would prove to be, at least about the outlook and reflexes of modern political leaders.

The British Council of Churches' 18-month investigation — admirably written up by Andrew Britton, the former director of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research - should be required reading for all politicians but perhaps most of all for those bright-eyed, bushy-tailed competitive-minded figures in Mr Blair's things that, whether out of caution or cowardice, the Labour leader's advisers have not allowed to surface in their party's manifesto. It is unequivocal about the need for higher taxation, unrepentant in urging reduced means-testing, and unapologetic about strengthening the bargaining position of the weak

in the marketplace. It could be said to preach social justice - a concept that, despite the commission set up by John Smith on that subject after he became Labour leader, now seems sadly out of fashion even in "the party of conscience and reform".



Road holding not by quattro.

Audi ((())

Goldsmith goes fishing for votes



The Referendum Party chose Cornwall to launch its election campaign. Ben Macintyre found that the big event failed to live up to its promise

IN a scene suffused with the odours of moral outrage and fresh fish, Sir James Goldsmith yesterday raised the standard of the Referendum Party on the southernmost tip of Britain and defied the rising tide of European red

ape.
The trawlers of Newlyn, just a few miles from Land's End, bring in a varied catch but Sir James, the multimillionaire crusader against Brussels, is the oddest political fish to be landed here for many years.

"I'm not a political minnow. I'm just someone who won't see our sovereignty squandered," Sir James de-

strolled along the 6 If you harbour at Newdon't fight lyn to meet Cornish fishermen for his first day's campaigning. A small but enthusfreedom, iastic crowd had you don't turned out to deserve it. cheer him in the bright morning It's to do sunlight. The Referendites are a with your strange mixture. country 9 were the well-to-do retired.

worried that Brussels will interfere in everything, destroy the liberties won in two world wars and tell them how to lay their crazy paving; here too were the weatherbeaten trawiermen, protesting at what they said was the destruction of their livelihoods by European fishing quotas, Brussels bureaucracy and the incursions of foreign boats. The Referendum Party maybe paddling in the shallows of the election, but if Sir James and his cohorts are to make a splash anywhere, it will be

At the end of the dock, Sir James hoisted the Referendum Party flag on a trawler belonging to the party's St

Ives candidate, Mike Faulkner, and then launched into an address promising to fight on the beaches for a referen-

dum on Europe.

Gesturing approximately in the direction of France, Sir James struck a beiligerent note, insisting that a referendum on Britain's future in Europe was the only way to protect national liberty. "If you don't fight for freedom, you don't deserve it. It's to do with your country, your forefathers, your grandchildren," he proclaimed

"We fought many years ago, and we lost brothers and friends," chimed in a pensioner, from somewhere be-

for .

low Sir James's chin. "Oggi, oggi, oggi," shouted a fisherman. There will be no national fleets. No Cornish fleets," Sir James warned. "To go out you'll need a special fishing permit from some gruesome bureaucrat in Brussels." Lieutenant Commander John Bascomb. 8i. a career naval officer who survived the sink-

ing of HMS Prince of Wales in 1941, wore his campaign medals across his jersey to greet Sir James: "The people in Brussels are directing us over our own matters, which should be our own concern,

cians," Sir James announced happily as he moved off to his next stop in Falmouth.

The Referendum Party, as befits an organisation with a reported £20 million in financing from Sir James, a one-issue agenda and no hope of power, is running a campaign that is refreshingly lacking in the panic and friction so evident elsewhere on the election trail. Perhaps



Sir James Goldsmith starts the Referendum Party's campaign at Newlyn, Cornwall, with an attack on "gruesome bureaucrats" and the European fisheries policy

it is Sir James's impeccable tailoring, or the advisers who tend to giggle when they try spin, or the fact that his aide is called "Priti", and is, but one often gets the impression that this is less a

political party than a dis-placed and rather jolly cock-

with a cast including several multimillionaires, an actor, a zoo owner and a hirsute

television ecologist, it is a mini-drama that might be titled: "Do let's be beastly to the Germans.

The questions raised by the Referendum Party, and the money spent on the party by Sir James, are serious, but compared with the deadly earnestness of the other political camps, this is amateur night at the pier.

In nearby Falmouth, the constituency held by Sebas-

tian Coe, the Referendum Party is fielding the property entrepreneur Peter de Savary. Sir James greeted the faithful handful at the Chain Locker pub on Falmouth front but of Mr de Savary, who once owned both Land's End and John o' Groats, there was not a trace. The candidate has not been sighted here since the election was

called An aide said that he

was "resting". And Mr de

Savary's daughter Lisa, an exhibitions organiser in normal times, explained that her father had been advised not to overdo it.

Party organisers had promised: "The harbour will be filled with trawlers hooting and flying flags." A few flags were in evidence but the only hooting to be heard James as he partook of a

toothsome Cornish lunch. Plans to have Sir James fire a starting pistol to launch a 100-boat flotilla and climb aboard a vessel were likewise abandoned. Sir James is also against overdo-

Such plans altered at the last minute and missed televiopportunities would - swal eminated from the happy gin have brought spin doctors and tonics surrounding Sir from the major parties dut in from the major parties out in blisters, but Priti was charm-

ingly unconcerned, as if some of the canapes had simply failed to materialise. "It was supposed to happen," she

Then Sir James waved goodbye, climbed into his private helicopter and headed back home while everyone politely thanked agreed had been a lovely day out and a perfectly spiffing

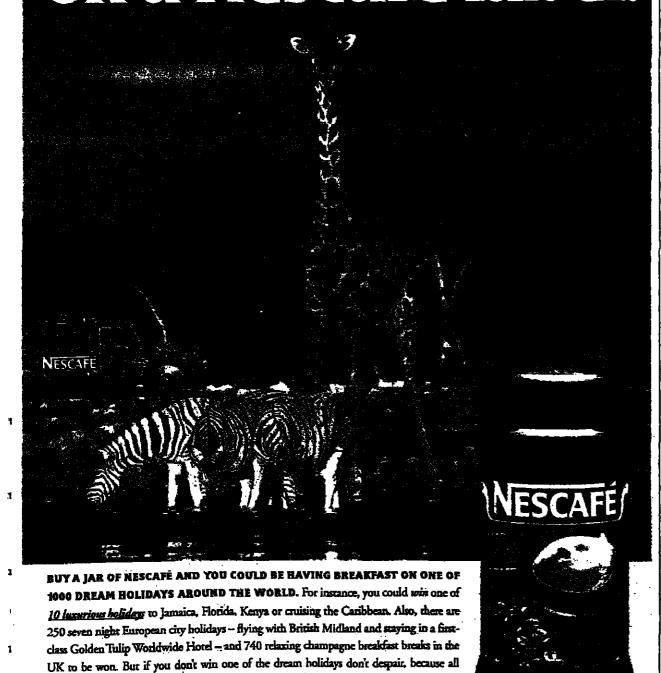
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Citable estate

Pulitzer

trumpets

high note

for jazz

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

JAZZ, regarded for much

of this century as the

smoke-fugged wayward cousin of the arts establish-

ment, has received a fillip by receiving its first Pulit-

Wynton Marsalis, 35,

one of the best jazz trum-peters of the day, gained the honour in a category

that has in the past gone to

His victory was being

regarded yesterday as a breakthrough for the

music that has prospered

in urban dives since

Mr Marsalis won the

Pulitzer for his oratorio

Blood on the Fields, a 22-

movement composition

around the story of Afri-

cans shipped to the United

The sympathetic nature

of the work helped his

cause, the Pulitzers, which

are administered by New York's Columbia Univer-

sity, are nothing if not politically correct.

The Pulitzer judges this year left their drama prize

unawarded. They could

not find an American play

that they considered wor-

Marsalis: oratorio tells

the story of slavery

thy of the award.

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Congress presses for tough stand over China

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

GROWING anti-Beijing sentiment from both parties in Congress threatens to give President Clinton a rough ride this summer as he attempts to boost trade with

Congressional critics of the Chinese Government are hoping that the White House's embarrassment over election campaign fundraising will enable them to bounce Mr Clinton into adopting a tough-

er line towards Beijing. Robert Rubin, the Treasury Secretary, this week warned senior Chinese government officials that concern about human rights, Hong Kong and a growing trade imbal-ance, meant that this year's debate over renewing China's "most lavoured nation" status would be even more highly

charged than in the past. China's desire to join the World Trade Organisation is a second flashpoint; leading Democrats in the House of Representatives are weighing up their chances of pushing through a law requiring the United States to veto China's

application in perpetuity. The looming dispute over China is a reminder to Mr Clinton that foreign policy offers little respite from the campaign fundraising dispute and partisan squabbling that has stalled domestic politics this year. He has made "constructive engagement" the motto of his policy towards China and has supported its "most favoured nation" status, which gives it the same privileges as America's main trad-

In the past, congressional critics of China have been deterred from voting to withdraw China's trading rights for fear of causing huge com-mercial damage to the United States. This year, however, the threat posed by China appears to have grabbed the imaginations of members of Congress from both parties, filling the vacuum left by the collapse of

the Soviet Union. Congressional hope that the Administration is now so sensitive to allegations of illegal Chinese donations to last year's election campaign, that it cannot afford to be soft on China for fear of being accused of looking

after its friends. The vote is due in June, but likely to be postponed until after July 1, when China regains control of Hong Kong. Some Senate opponents want to delay it a further three months to assess China's behaviour towards the former colony more fully.

The more distant question of World Trade Organisation membership is likely to attract fiercer opposition. According to American trade officials, China wants to reach broad agreement with the United States on its accession to the world's largest trading organisation before an autumn summit between Mr Clinton and President Jiang Zemin of China. However, the gulf between the two on tariff levels remains formidable.

If Congress succeeds in forcing the White House to take a harder line, it would mark a severe setback for Mr Clinton and would further complicate the already tense relations between Washington and Beijing.

Leading article, page 21 | differences between the Amer-



A Palestinian firebomb explodes near Israeli troops during yesterday's fresh wave of violence in Hebron

Violence eclipses Netanyahu return

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AMERICA'S latest Middle East peace initiative was yesterday swiftly overtaken by fighting in the disputed West Bank city of Hebron. By nightfall three Palestinians were dead and more than 100 injured. Four Israeli soldiers were also wounded.

The violence erupted only hours before Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, arrived back from talks in Washington with President Clinton that failed to end the dangerous deadlock in the peace process, which many fear is pushing the region to the brink of war. Mr Clinton described the

PACKARD

talks as "very specific, frank, candid and long", a diplomatic way of pointing to deep

ican and Israeli positions. Last night Israeli rightwingers praised Mr Netanyahu for making no concessions. spokesman for Yassir Arafat. President of the Pales-

tinian Authority, blamed the bloodshed on the Israeli Prime Minister, whose approval of a large new Jewish setlement at Har Homa in annexed east Jerusalem provoked the latest crisis when bulldozers began work there on March 18. Twelve people have since been killed, including three Jewish women in a suicide bomb attack. Nearly 800 Arabs have been wounded.

Yesterday's fighting was the most serious in a single day between Israeli forces and Palestinian mobs since the new crisis began. Both sides

gave different versions of how he trouble began.

The spark that ignited passions on both sides came when a 23-year-old Palestinian was shot dead by two Jewish settlers studying at a religious college. Palestinians said the shooting was unprovoked, but Israeli police claimed that the shots were fired after the Jews were attacked with teargas. Jibril Rajoub, the head of

the Palestinian security forces in the West Bank, rejected Israeli claims that the dead man. Assam Rashid Arafeh. had been shot after the two Jews were attacked by Palestinians. "I think this is a very grave incident, and I think it will lead to an escalation of the situation." he said.

As hundreds of Palestinians

attacked across the divide, the Israeli troops — part of a large unit based deployed to defend the 450 Jewish settlers living among 120,000 Hebron Arabs - opened fire, first over the heads of the attackers, then with rubber-coated bullets and teargas. The Israelis denied claims that they had fired live ammunition.

Two other Palestinians. whose ages were given by hospital sources as 15 and 24, died after they were hit in the head by rubber bullets.

Later yesterday, hundreds of Palestinians marched in the funeral procession of the first victim, vowing to avenge his death. Uniformed Palestinian police carried the flag-draped corpse and honoured the dead man with a 21-gun salute.

WORLD SUMMARY

Strike by drivers hits India

Delhi: Indian industry is being paralysed by a nation-wide lorry drivers strike, foreing the army to move crucial supplies and leaving ports paralysed by stockpiled goods (Christopher Thomas writes). any companies say they will halt production if the nine-day stoppage goes on. The strike, called by the All

India Motor Transport Con-

planned transport service tax.

Flying into rage

Phnom Penh: Fed up with flights, the president of Cambodia's chamber of commerce. Teng Boonma, believed to Cambodia's richest man, shot out a tyre on a parked Royal Air Cambodge 737 jet. No action was taken against the tycoon. (AP)

Court explosion

Urbana, Illinois: A man threw a firebomb at a judge during a trial, causing an explosion and fire. The judge at the Champaign County courthouse was treated in hospital for a scalp wound and three other people had minor injuries. (AP)

Famine warning

Tokyo: North Korea is threatened by a famine and only urgent international assis-tance will avert mass starvation, Tony Hall, an American congressman said after touring northern areas (Robert Whymant writes).

Major minor

Beijing: A Chinese woman in central Henan province has given birth to a baby weighing 191b 13oz and measuring 28in. The boy, the size of an 18month infant, was born by Caesarian section. (AFP)

HP's new NetServer E-30 means goodbye to the desktop PC server.

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The HP NetServer E-30 also has

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France hopes display of almost 1,000 paintings will restore works to rightful Jewish owners

Art treasures looted by Nazis on show in Paris

opened in Paris yesterday there was no question of which artists the works could be attributed to: the problem was to which owners could they be attributed?

The paintings, including masters such as Picasso, Matisse and Renoir, were among almost 1,000 works of art looted from French Jewish families by the Nazis. Many were seen for the first time yesterday. The French Government is staging exhibitions at five museums so that the original owners may see them. recognise them and lodge a claim. It is the first official attempt to locate the owners since the works were taken away 50 years ago.

Why did it take half a century?" demanded a survivor of the Holocaust at an impassioned conference at the Pompidou Centre yesterday. "How can you suggest that works were bought on a flourishing market when they were stolen?" a former Resis tance fighter, Jean Demartini, asked museum staff. A genealogist, François-Louis A'Weng. called on the French Government to open up its archives to

help in the search. In such circumstances, it was difficult to look at paintings by Matisse, Dufy and others without letting the imagination wonder what they might have witnessed before being snatched from



An exhibition bound to stir anguished memories has just opened, writes Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent, in Paris

tration camps, having been sent there with the collaboration of the Vichy regime.

Paintings by masters such as Corot and Utrillo, many of peaceful country or gentle urban views, perhaps mir-rored the kinds of scenery through which the victims would have passed on their way to Drancy and the East.

The Louvre, Musée d'Orsay, Pompidou Centre, National Ceramics Museum

Dutch artist. Among 102 drawings that have finally seen the light are The Adora-tion of the Magi by Tiepolo, perhaps the greatest Italian 18th-century artist, and a tender image of an old woman attributed to Goya.

Ida Grinspan, who was deported to Auschwitz where her parents were murdered, was among those at the Pompidou yesterday. She came out

6 Survivors, who experienced rape and death, are seeking moral justice through the return of these works 9

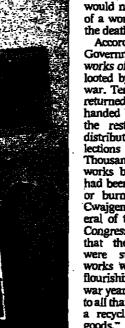
Versailles are each displaying share of the pillaged

For the first time in decades. the Louvre showed delicate oil studies by masters such as Fragonard and Delacroix; and 12th-century carvings from unidentified churches. Many of the works were from the studio of the masters: a striking image of St Peter by anach, the l6th-century German painter, or a charming blind man and his dog by

Ida Grinspan, with photograph of herself after Auschwitz, at the Pompidou Centre

Picasso Head of a Woman and a gentle Dufy view of Venice, she sighed: "Part of the

believed some of the images belonged to her family. "My father was just a tailor, a good tailor, but he did not have paintings." She survived the death camp because her mother arranged her hair to make her look older than her 14 years: children were automatically killed because they were



the foreign affairs committee of the Board of Deputies of

with each of these paintings." Myriam Glikerman, of the European Jewish Congress. said that survivors who had death, death" were seeking only moral justice through seeing these works of art returned home. Serge Klarsfeld, the Nazi hunter who tracked down Klaus Barbie to South America and whose father died at Auschwitz, said yesterday that, just as the war criminals should never be allowed to

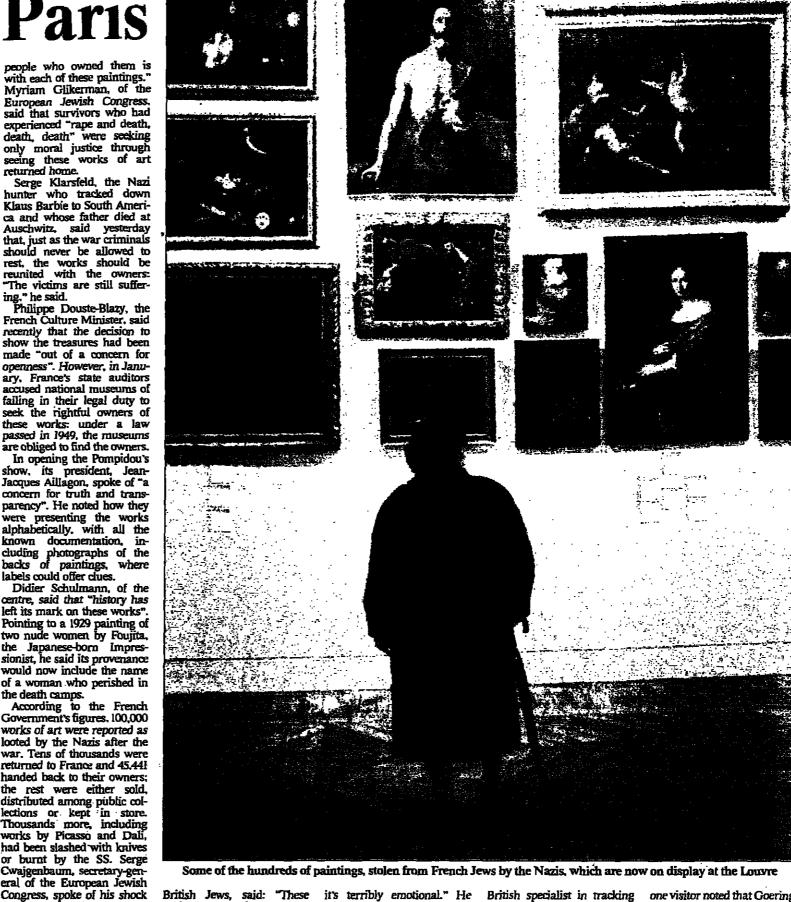
The victims are still suffering." he said. Philippe Douste-Blazy, the French Culture Minister, said recently that the decision to show the treasures had been made "out of a concern for onenness". However, in January, France's state auditors accused national museums of failing in their legal duty to seek the rightful owners of

are obliged to find the owners. In opening the Pompidou's show, its president, Jean-Jacques Aillagon, spoke of "a concern for truth and transparency". He noted how they were presenting the works alphabetically, with all the cluding photographs of the backs of paintings, where labels could offer clues.

Didier Schulmann, of the centre, said that "history has left its mark on these works". Pointing to a 1929 painting of two nude women by Foujita, the Japanese-born Impressionist, he said its provenance would now include the name of a woman who perished in the death camps.

According to the French Government's figures, 100,000 works of art were reported as looted by the Nazis after the war. Tens of thousands were returned to France and 45,441 handed back to their owners the rest were either sold distributed among public collections or kept in store. Thousands more, including works by Picasso and Dali, had been slashed with knives or burnt by the SS. Serge Cwajgenbaum, secretary-gen eral of the European Jewish Congress, spoke of his shock that the French museums were suggesting that the works were acquired on the flourishing art market of the war years: "It gives legitimacy to all that happened. Paris was a recycling centre of stolen

Martin Savitt, chairman of



exhibitions are of tremendous importance. These works were stolen from Jewish ownership in the 1940s. We are hopeful that the heirs can recognise the artefacts and make a

He spoke of being inundated with letters from children and grandchildren of the victims: "I sit here and cry and

it's terribly emotional." He added that works that could not be reunited with the original owners should be sold. The proceeds, he suggested, could be directed towards Eastern Europe: "Most of the Jews in the Ukraine and the Baltic states never had a penny of compensation."

Similar thoughts were ex-pressed by Philip Saunders, a

down art stolen during the war: "I don't think the French state should keep them. This is other people's work. The Simon Wiesenthal Centre has called on France to send the works on a world tour to help their original owners to see

While people walked silently through the exhibition halls.

one visitor noted that Goering. who was fond of art, or at least art collections, had done some-thing similar in 1940. He came regularly for exhibitions of looted works at the nearby Jeu de Paume museum: art was delivered by the truckload, champagne was laid on for him and he took his pick. steering clear of anything the Führer wanted.

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Six narrow slits that sank the Titanic

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

astonishingly narrow slits and not, as supposed, by a huge gash to her bow, research has shown.

French and American underwater explorers, using sound waves to pene-trate the thick mud which still surrounds much of the doomed liner, showed that she was undone by six slits on her starboard side. They are the width of a man's palm, and their total surface area

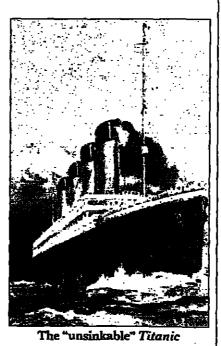
is no bigger than two paving stones.
Since the Belfast-built vessel sank on the night of April 14, 1912, it has commonly been supposed that the ice-berg she struck left a gaping 300ft hole in her side. She sank within two hours and shout 1500 people died including the about 1,500 people died, including the band, which reportedly played on.

A television documentary to be broadcast in the United States this weekend - close to the disaster's 85th anniversary - will detail the damage caused by the iceberg six slits, in a pattern similar to those one might make with a knife in the top of an apple pie.

THE Titanic was sunk by a series of Their size meant that the ocean rushed in to the *Titanic* at a terrifying rate — faster, said a shipbuilding expert yesterday, than the rate achieved by a modern fireman's hose, and certainly more than even the most modern bilge pump could

The position of the slits was also crucial to the loss of the "unsinkable" liner on her maiden voyage. They penetrated the steel skin and holed the ship's front six watertight compartments. Had she not been going so fast — about 22 knots — the gashes might not have been so bad and she might have

The evidence vindicates the testimony given to the 1912 British inquiry into the disaster by Edward Wilding of Harland & Wolff, the Belfast shipyard which built the liner. He maintained, to widespread disbelief, that the ship was damaged in a number of areas, probably in the manner of slits. David Livingstone, a successor to Mr Wilding at Harland & Wolff, said yesterday: "Wilding got it right."



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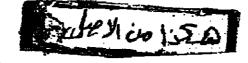
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Nato balks at tough Russian demands as security talks enter final stage

MOSCOW is demanding tough terms for signing a politically binding security charter with Nato, some of which were rejected out of hand by the alliance yesterday in a meeting with Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister. The search for a deal with Moscow that will guarantee Russia a strategic partnership with Nato is now approaching the final stages. The intention is for President Yeltsin to attend a summit at the end of next month, probably in Paris, to sign the charter that will declare the formation of a Nato-Russia Council and offer Moscow pledges about the manner in which the alliance is planning to Russia accepts that it cannot stop Nato's growth. But it is applying maximum pressure to limit its impact, writes Michael Evans in Brussels

from Central and Eastern Europe. Although there is a high degree of optimism at Nato headquarters that the Russians will agree to a deal, senior officials underlined the challenges that remain. One senior Nato source said about 60 per cent of the text for the charter had been agreed.

At yesterday's meeting at Nato headquarters between Gebhardt von Moltke, the Assistant Secretary-General, political affairs divi-

sion, and Nikolai Afanassievski, the Russian Deputy Foreign Min-ister, the main stumbling blocks to security charter could be summed up in one word — infrastructure. Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary are expected to be among the first countries to be invited to join the alliance, and the Russians have accepted

that they cannot prevent such a

move. So they are applying maxi-

mum pressure to limit Nato de-

ployment of "foreign" troops and equipment into their former satel-lite states. "Infrastructure to the Russians means one Nato soldier crossing the border," a Nato

Moscow has already won a significant concession on the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons, known as the "three no's". The charter text says the alliance has "no intention, no plans and no reason for deploying nuclear weapons" on the territory of new

member states. Now Russia is trying to get a similar deal on conventional forces, although Nato will not allow Moscow a veto to stop basic infrastructure work being carried

out, including improving runways to Nato standards, ensuring air defence systems are inter-operable and building "facilities" to enable alliance forces to be deployed rapidly to the new member coun-

tries in an emergency.
The Russians are beginning to ome round to Nato's argument that it is necessary to ensure interoperability, between existing and new members, but say this does not mean large garrisons of troops and tanks permanently based in the countries. However, if Nato concedes too much to Moscow,

Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic will think they are sec-ond-class members of the alliance. To underline the lingering Cold

come up with a new formula for regulating the size and location of forces under the Conventional

Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty.

Moscow insists that Nato enlargement will change the balance of forces agreed under the treaty. Nato is prepared to offer "gener-ous" new conditions, one of which is that if "foreign" troops are deployed in the new member states, those countries will have to reduce their own national forces by a comparable amount.

However, Moscow has now oposed that the balance of forces in Europe should be based on three troop components: Nato,

former Soviet Union and former Warsaw Pact. A senior Nato source said this was totally unacceptable. "Russia is isolated on this

one," the source said. Moscow has made it clear that if a charter is agreed, it wants it signed at a separate Nato-Russia summit "well before" the Nato meeting in Madrid in July which will invite the new members to join the alliance. There is optimism that a charter will be signed next

Twelve countries have formally applied to join Nato: Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic. Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Lithunia, Latvia, Estonia, Albania, Macedonia and Slovenia.

Prodi faces defeat over Italian force for Albania

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

LAST-MINUTE uncertainty over Italy's imminent military intervention in Albania threatened to bring down the centreleft Government last night. Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, was facing parlia-mentary defeat just hours before the first advance units of the Italian-led force are due

to arrive in Tirana. Signor Prodi appealed to MPs to back him, saying Italy's international reputation was at stake and that failure to intervene in Albania would be "dishonourable".

He had expected to push a government motion approving the military intervention through the lower house today with the support of the centreright Opposition, led by Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon and former Prime Minister. But Signor Berlusconi said the Opposition, which also includes the far-right Alleanza Nazionale led by Gianfranco

Fini, would table its own motion and would either vote against the government motion or abstain.

The Right appeared incensed by what it saw as proof from a senior Prodi administration official that the Government's aims were not confined to the protection of humanitarian aid but also included the removal from power of President Berisha and his right-wing Democratic Party. Signor Fini said his party would only vote for intervention in Albania if Signor Prodi stepped down.

We are already living in the post-Prodi era," La Stampa reported. "We cannot put 2,000 Italian lives at risk when we are so divided." The centreleft coalition, which includes the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS), or the former Communist Party, won historic elections a year ago this month. It has a majority in the

Senate, which voted yesterday, but in the lower house depends for a majority on the hard-left Rifondazione Comunista. Rifondazione, led by Fausto Bertinotti, has kept Signor Prodi in power despite ideological differences over budget cuts and privatisation.

Signor Bertinotti has refused to back Signor Prodi over Albania this week, arguing that intervention would be a dangerous mistake, at the taxpayers' expense, and an act of "neo-colonialism". Albania was occupied by Fascist Italy 58 years ago this week.

The multinational force has been dogged from the start by uncertainty over its make-up, aims and operational tactics. La Repubblica said the real purpose of the intervention, dubbed Operation Sunrise, was not so much to protect aid convoys as to "reconstruct an embryonic Albanian state". The collapse of the cross-

party consensus yesterday came after Piero Fassino, the Deputy Foreign Minister responsible for the Mediterranean area, told a PDS meeting that President Berisha had to step down, if not immediately then in the future. That Berisha should go is clear to us," Signor Fassino, a prominent PDS leader, was quoted as saying. "By us I mean not just the PDS, but the Govern-

ment as a whole." An advance party of Italian and French troops was due to secure Tirana airport tomorrow, defence officials said. The bulk of the 6,000-man force from Italy, France, Spain, Greece, Romania and Turkey, and commanded by an Italian general - was expected next week, with the aim of securing the ports of Durres and Vlore and a "corridor" from the coast to Tirana.

Letters, page 21



Russian soldiers stand solemnly to attention in St Petersburg yesterday as a boy walks by during a rehearsal for next month's Victory Day parade

Germany's jobless total sets record for month

FROM DEBORAH COLLCUIT

GERMAN unemployment figures reached a postwar record for the month of March with an increase of nearly 400,000 compared with last year. prompting both union and employers' associations to cast doubt on the Government's goal of halving unemployment by 2000.

Although the unemployment rate fell last month to a seasonally unadjusted 11.7 per cent or 4.48 million from February's 12.2 per cent or 4.67 million - the highest level since 1933 - further increases are expected in coming

The fall was mainly linked to milder weather, which allowed construction labourers to return to work, while the trend in manufacturing and other sectors remained weak, the Federal Labour Office reported yesterday. "It was expected that the March

figures would be better than Fehruary because of the improved weather, which has boosted the building industry," said Holgar Fahrinkrug, an economist with the United Bank of Switzerland in Frankfurt. But there are not too many good signs for a downward trend. Companies are still under enormous pressure to rationalise and there is no signal for long-term jobs growth until at least autumn or next year." Analysts said continuing high unemployment meant the Government faced a challenge cutting its budget deficit in time to fulfil the Maastricht treaty criteria to qualify for economic and monetary union.

The data from the Labour Office immediately dampened chances of a cut in German interest rates, as it fell short of predictions for unemployment figures issued by the Bundesbank.

Border guards 'humiliate' Rock general

From Tunku Varadarajan IN MADRID AND DOMINIQUE SEARLE

IN GIBRALTAR

THE Foreign Office will complain to Spain today over the mistreatment by Spanish border guards of the commander

of the British armed forces in Gibraltar. The incident, which onlookers described as a humiliation, occurred on

Saturday when Major-General Simon Pack, in civilian dress, was stopped at the border with Spain and asked to step out of his private Gibraltar-registered car. The general produced his military papers, but the guards insisted on seeing documentary proof of residence in Gibraltar.

General Pack had to drive back to his home and return with papers to prove that he was lawfully resident there. According to witnesses, a guard threw

the papers to the ground. They were retrieved by the general. He was then allowed to enter Spain. Peter Caruana, Gibraltar's Chief Min-

ister, said: "This is a vivid example of the contempt and aggression which people face at the border." A senior official at the British Embassy

in Madrid said: This is one more of those incidents ... in which our people are harrassed unnecessarily."



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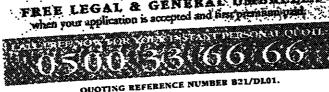
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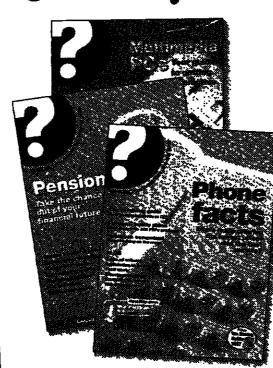


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A thorn in the side of an English rose

ONE of the things about living in a country where the weather is so cruelly capricious, is how pathetically grateful it makes one when it all goes right. Usually April brings not the gladdening signs of spring, but icy blasts and torrents of rain (and probably hail and snow as well), quite indistinguishable from what goes on in January and February, and most unconducive to the casting of a single clout. Shivering inside one's woolly jumper — matted with long wear — one reflects bitterly that it will probably carry on like this well into August.

But then, miraculously, every so often there comes along a proper spring, with lambs and apple blossom and bluebells all arriving in a rush, and lilies of the valley coming up unseasonably early and sunshine warm enough for one to

sit out and admire this beautiful extravagance of new life and hope.

And of course, what with everything looking so fresh and new and flowery, one's thoughts begin to

Beware Beware The wra

directions'

drift towards one's

own appearance. A

plague on scratchy tweed and hairy sweaters and horrid frowsty black and its ugly sisters, brown and navy. What we want now is lightness and gaiety and, luckily for us, this year the designers have unaccountably not decreed that the Modern Woman wishes to spend the spring in flapping tailleurs of porridge-coloured viscose hessian, or shift dresses of unforgiving cut in citric shades so tart that they make

your teeth hurt.
On the contrary, the womenswear departments of the big stores currently resemble the main tent at Chelsea Flower Show, bursting with rail after rail of delicious little dresses — ruffled, wraparound wisps of chiffon or crepe in sweet-pea colours. So chic, so simple — none of that fussing that one has to go in for with separates — just slip it on, tie the sash, and there you are. The perfect look for the

traditional English rose.
Except, beware! Not for nothing does the traditional English rose have the unenviable reputation of being the worst-dressed woman in Europe, if not the world. Let us suppose, for a moment, that you have bought one of these little flowery wrapover wisps.

There it is on the hanger, all set to transform you effortlessly into the Queen of the May. Standing in front of the mirror, you shrug it on, do up the little ribbon ties and, hey presto! there you are, effortlessly transformed into Mrs Overall in her herbaceous wraparound pinny.

Good God! Can your ankies really have become that thick in the course of the winter? Or is it just the effect of those simple little ballet pumps which you have slipped on? Perhaps it will be better when you are sitting down — one of the charms of the wrap-over frock is the artless way in which it discloses an alluring expanse of leg. You sit down. The wrap-front parts in all directions, disclosing an expanse of stocky limb all the way up to your American Tan

Beware! gusset (and a hefty slice of brassiere into the bargain). Alluring is, perhaps, not quite the mot juste.

Oh dear. Well, it is a hard lesson, but one worth learning as early as possible, that the authentic look of carefree chic—the one that says, What, this? Oh I just opened the wardrobe and out it popped,

isn't it sweet?—is not achieved without vast amounts of effort and calculation.

This is a lesson that many English roses find, for some reason, terribly hard to absorb. Ravishingly pretty at 20, with the glossy looks that

perfect good health and extreme youth bestow, they look glorious in anything and consequently feel no need to acquire the boring and rigorous self-discipline needed for real elegance later in life.

But if you are a day over 25 and you want to avoid a disaster, the first time you take that pretty, easy-to-wear little dress out for a stroll in the bright April sunshine, you

and you want to avoid a disaster, the first time you take that pretty, easy-to-wear little dress out for a stroll in the bright April sunshine, you had better subject yourself now to a programme of ruthless firming and toning and depilation and body-buffing. Not to mention the purchase of some impossible-to-walk-in sandals and some very modest and very expensive underwear (since, no matter how ladylike your gestures, sooner or later, the treacherous wrap-front

will expose it).

Alternatively, you could just reach to the back of the wardrobe for last year's portides coloured viscose.

It's a wrap



Designers have given the wraparound dress a new slant for summer, with diagonal ruffles for a fresh, romantic look. Style Editor Grace Bradberry chooses three variations



ABOVE: Blue floral dress, £49.99, by Gasts, from stores nationwide

LEFT: Tie dress, £45, from **Warehouse**, 19-21 Argyll Street, W

RIGHT: Clements Ribetro dress, £595, from **Koh Samui**, 65 Monmouth Street, WC2

PHOTOGRAPHER: Karl Grant, HAIR AND MAKE-UP: Denise Rabor, MODEL: Nicola at Models 1

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DIAMONDS ARE STILL A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND

IN 1932, Coco Chanel staged a Paris show devoted entirely to diamonds. The exhibition was worth £10 million, and never reached London because Customs demanded too big a deposit. Today, 65 years later, an equally lavish collection goes on show as Chanel opens a fine jewellery boutique in London. There are diamond and pearl necklaces for a staggering £215,000, and the whole place drips with luxury.

One might imagine that Chanel had been the undisputed

One might imagine that Chanel had been the undisputed queen of luxe. In fact, her attitude was double edged. On the one hand, she acquired her own collection of precious jewellery through the loves of her life. But on the other, she could be quite dismissive of those who bought expensive pieces.

"One might as well hang a cheque around one's neck," she

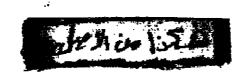
"One might as well hang a cheque around one's neck," she said of some of the showier jewellery available in her day, and her tongue was firmly in her cheek when she remarked that the 1932 collection consisted of diamonds because "being dense, they represent the greatest value in the smallest volume".

Today's collection is divided into diamonds, pearls, coloured stones and "symbols", including the famous camellia.

s and "symbols", including the lamous camellia.

GRACE BRADBERRY





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There's no excuse for not voting

Apathy is no reason for firsttime voters to stay at home

t is astonishing the amount of excitement A and agitation generated by apathy at the moment, it is all anyone wants to talk about, all anyone — finger up to the suspiciously still air - can detect. Press commentators claim it as the biggest story, and in doing so make it the biggest story. Worse, an already reluctant electorate is being cajolied into inattention. into a sneering, shoulder-shrugging negligence, simply by being, obscurely, applauded for it.

When a politically charged columnist with such a taste for the demotic flourish as Richard Littlejohn advises people not to vote on May I. something is truly up.

Meanwhile, Bob Worcester, of MORI, is expecting the lowest turnout since the war and believes, having smashed birds on rocks and examined their entrails, that no more than 40 per cent of 18 to 25-year-olds will bother casting a vote. I can't say I'm surprised by this. Who could be?

Those who have a chance to vote for the first time have been making sure they let everybody know how bored



Nigella Lawson

they are by the idea for quite some time. At the very start of the campaign. I read an interview with one such non-voter. He droned on about how none of the parties had anything to say to him or his ilk, which is why he couldn't be bothered to vote for them — and then had the effrontery to moan self-pityingly about being "disenfranchised". That about sums it up as far as I'm concerned.

People like this should be treated with contempt, not listened with exaggerated shows of sympathy and interest. Look here, dimbo, I want to say: by refusing to vote you are disenfranchising yourself. It's your fault. The only consolation is that if people really are that stupid, then one should be grateful they aren't voting. By staying away from the polls, perhaps they are doing us all a favour. God knows. I don't want to have to pay politically for the half-baked, crass non-views of such idiots.

Nevertheless, I am prepared to accept that that is what democracy entails. But still, it's enough to turn me - for all my democratic beliefs - into a totalitarian despot. I can't help feeling that those who consider that by casting a vote they sully themselves are guilty of Crimes against Democracy.

People are divided as to what or who is to blame for such lack of political interest. For some it is the Tories. who have alienated whole tranches of society with their policies and wilfully exclusive focus, for others it is an opportunistic Labour Party, which by its votesniffing activities implicitly laughs in the face of real political commitment.

Both arguments contain

some truth. Added to which, post-Thatcher Tory admin-istrations have been keen to depict Conservatism as being above politics, while only Labour is pushing an agenda. Now, they ve decided that there's no agenda. only an eye on the main chance, but it's a bit late to undo the damage. The idea that it is better to be unpolitical (itself an idea which, to be fair, has long found favour with the British), or that in eschewing displays of ideological commitment one is showing political maturity, is hard now to

But while some people hate the Right and others hate the Left, everyone hates the press: and that's where the blame is, self-destructively, sited by a number of commentators. To claim that the electorate is being turned off by the narrow. copy-led focus of the media campaign is to avoid the real issue. I am fed up with people trying to find reasons why people don't want to vote, as if there could be any excuse for it.

Yes, it is interesting to have explanation and yes, the unexamined life is not worth living, but in our haste to understand we are far too quick to forgive. The reasons people themselves give for not intending to vote are just as spurious. It is quite ridiculous for people to say that whether they vote or not, or who they'd vote for if they deigned to vote, wouldn't have any impact on their life. Of course it would. It may be that there is no one for whom one would ideally like to vote. but that's not quite the same thing. Democracy, anyway, is about compromise.

Perhaps we should forgive that apathetic army of year-olds who seem to think that the only things in which it is worth evincing any interest are aerosols and animal rights, but I find it hard to do so. If they don't like the agenda of any political party, they are free to try to change it. And if they applied themselves for more than a second or two. it might dawn on them that a party's line on selective education might have more impact on their life than whatever it might spout about bunny rabbits in labs.

On the one hand, I am relieved that dreary, selfcongratulatory, student-style activism has had its day, but on the other I worry about the narcissistic, narrow-minded indolence of vast numbers of people, by no means all of them under 20, who are no longer prepared to act or think about anything apart from which pair of trainers to buy, or what to watch on television.

on't these people realise it is a luxury to be too bored to vote? I understand that vast tracts of society feel alienated by the political parties. But activity, not inactivity, is the answer. I don't say this lightly: depression, whether it's on a personal or more general level, can be paralysing. But we do all have a duty to try to create the sort of society we believe should exist - or why bother to do

anything? And it's no good moaning about which ever party gets in later and claiming that it's not your fault as you didn't vote for them: it will be your fault, absolutely your fault.

l don't believe that it should be mandatory to vote, as it is, say, in Australia, but I do fervently believe that there exists a moral obligation so to do. It is a weakness, a real ethical failure, not to grasp and act on that. But to boast about it on top of everything: that's

When pressure kills



In the early years of their marriage, Barbara Hirst says her husband Terry was dynamic but his punishing work schedule as a GP caused depression, which led to suicide

of portfolio careers, with downas the sensible person's ultimate aim, the pressure on those who have to work has never been greater. Downsizing and redundancy are spectres in everyone's lives, and for men in particular it seems that the pressure has never been greater.

Two recent studies by the Institute of Personnel and Development show that men suffer more stress than women at work, and a third study shows that the highest rate is

among men aged 45 to 64. Tonight, a BBC documentary* examines the cases of four men who could not take any more. The most tragic is that of Dr Terence Hirst, who had run a successful GP practice for 23 years. His wife Barbara



Desperate: Mr Hirst

- whom he married in 1970 recalls how, in the early years of their marriage, a friend remarked that he was so dynamic that he could "set the Thames on fire". He was also a perfectionist

But when fundholding was introduced in 1990. Dr Hirst felt compelled to take his practice into the new system. fearing that other practices would have the competitive edge if he waited. "It was an insidious thing,"

says Mrs Hirst. "A year after the contract was implemented he was still basically happy. but there was a gradual erosion of self-esteem, self-worth. The demands were enormous.

The workload was just astronomical and he was fed up with the volume of bureaucracy attached to the job. He was 50. He wanted to ease up a bit and instead of that he was actually doing more. He worked harder than he had when he first qualified.

"His health began to deteriorate from the summer of 1992 when we went away and he began to have physical manifestations of depressive ill-

In the evenings he would sit staring into the fire and free about mistakes he thought he

More and more men are suffering from work-related stress sometimes with tragic consequences, says Grace Bradberry

had made. In May 1994, Mrs Hirst persuaded her husband to visit his GP. He was surprised when he was diagnosed as suffering from depression. His wife tried to persuade him to stay off work and rest, "But he said, 'I don't know if I like you talking to me as though I should be a patient'. It was as though 1 were querying his professional acumen. But he was dreadful-

Four days after he had begun taking medication, he left home at about 2.30pm. His wife thought he was going to the hospital, where one of his patients had been admitted. Nevertheless, she had a chill-

ing sense of impending There was a dreadful fore-

boding. I didn't know what to do. One is filled with rescue fantasies. I should have rushed out after him and nulled the car keys away . . . ' Instead of going to the hospital. Dr Hirst had gone to the house of a gamekeeper who had been a patient. He said he was thinking of taking

up shooting and asked to try out a gun. Not realising the doctor was depressed, the gamekeeper loaded two cartridges and allowed Dr Hirst to fire one into the air. Apparently satisfied, Dr Hirst followed the gamekeeper back into the house - but insisted on keeping the gun. As the gamekeeper walked upstairs, Dr Hirst went into the kitchen and shot himself.

That afternoon, Mrs Hirst made a series of increasingly desperate phone calls. She tried the hospital, then her husband's surgery, knowing he had appointments scheduled from 4.30pm. After several calls, the receptionist passed her to the practice manager. Mrs Hirst was told there had been "an accident".

oon the house was full of policemen and doctors wives. Her mother also came over. A young policeman, eyes red with distress, had to break the news to her formally. The worst moment came when the Hirsts' 15-year-old son Edward called to say he was on his way home from school.

"My voice must have been shaking, because he said, What has happened? I said, 'Nothing, nothing'. When he got here, well that's the bit that really creases me now. His little face came in and there was just a sea of faces." Their daughter, now 24, was away at

Mrs Hirst has no doubt that it was the pressure of work

clearly was highly stressful. But Alison Willox had no idea that drove her husband to kill himself. "The week he died he'd worked 104 hours. It was

age. The thing about depression is that you're expected to carry on working," One of the saddest aspects is that Dr Hirst, who was 50 when he died, could have afforded to retire. "We'd talked all that through and he wanted very, very much to work part-time. Nothing really was stopping him. We were going to sell the house and he would step down from this rigorous.

punishing and awful at that

punishing lifestyle." But his depressive illness took a grip before that was possible

In Dr Hirst's case, his job

that her husband Ray was under great pressure as an executive officer with the Department of Social Security in Newcastle, "It used to be a joke in this house, 'How many pencils did you sharpen to-

ay?," she recalls. But a promotion and changes in the wages structure meant that Mr Willox found himself carrying out staff assessments. "He found them very difficult because how he judged people would then be reflected in their salaries," says Mrs Willox. She realised her husband

was becoming desperate when

kitchen holding a knife and asking how many fingers he would need to cut off never to have to return to work.

n May 2 1995, she returned home from her job as a shop assistant to find that her husband was not there. Assuming that he wanted some time alone, she waited before reporting him missing. When she did, the police showed a picture of Mr Willox to someone who had witnessed a man leap from a bridge. The witness thought it was Mr Willox, and it was not until three weeks later that the tide washed up the body. she discovered him in the revealing it to be someone else.

Mrs Willox is still waiting for her husband, who would now be 58, to come home. "I think we lost him in those three weeks. I think he was waiting to see his picture on the television or the paper, for us to say come home, all is forgiven'." She now believes he will never return, despite

repeated publicity drives. "When I watch holiday programmes on the television I'm looking to see if he's part of the crowd." she says.

Although it was a second marriage for both of them, Mrs Willox remembers the man she married 20 years ago as "very outgoing and sociable . . he made me feel I was 16 instead of 4o.

"I blame his work for what happened."

• Brainstorm, in the Modern Times series, will be shown tonight, at 9pm on BBC2

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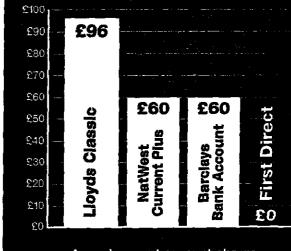
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Five years ago today, John Major won against the odds. Here he responds to those who think it is time for a change

The campaign had been long and hard. The polls were clear. The chattering classes and the press were full of anticipation. It was "time for a change". But it wasn't. Five years ago today, the Government was re-elected while in the middle of an economic trough. Since then it hasn't all been plain sailing. But stand back from the myths and look at the record.

The recession forced us into some difficult decisions. Taxes and interest rates rose as we chose long-term economic well-being over short term popularity. Now those decisions have brought their reward. Personal taxes are coming down. We have made Britain one of the lowest taxed economies in Europe. The Government's overall tax take is well below that of France,

Germany and Italy.
Unemployment is falling fast.
Since 1992, two jobs have been created every minute of every working day. Jobless levels in Britain are 900,000 lower than they were at our re-election, whereas across the Channel unemployment - particularly youth unemploy-

ment — is rising steadily. Inflation is now on track for our target of 2.5 per cent. It was above 9 per cent when I became Prime Minister. Now Britain is enjoying the longest period of low inflation

since I was old enough to vote. Our industry is competitive and trade is soaring. This country is easily the favourite location for inward investment into Europe. My personal manifesto

We attract a third of inward investment into the EU. The result is growth that puts us well on the way to our own long-term goal: a doubling of living standards by the

We have not been afraid to take tough decisions over the past five years. Rail privatisation was scarcely a popular move, but now it is bringing benefits to commuters up and down the country.

We have curbed the growth of public spending by concentrating on priorities, not bureaucracy and overmanning. Year on year, the Government has still found additional resources for the things that matter: schools, hospitals, the police. Labour claims that we are denying resources to essential services, but let us not forget that even allowing for inflation we are spending 75 per cent more on hospitals, 50 per cent more on schools and 100 per cent more on police than the last Labour Government. Now, as prosperity grows, I want us to build on our reforms to deliver even

better public services. Any party that has been in vernment for some years will be told it is "time for a change". They said it in 1992. They are saying it now. It may be true if the govern-ment has atrophied; if it has failed seeks to hold office without innovating and reforming.

The Conservative Government has changed Britain, but it still has much to do. I want to take the benefits of Conservatism into every corner of this country. The sale of council houses and shares, the in-troduction of tax-free savings through Tessas and PEPs were not just isolated initiatives. They were, and are, key components of a systematic plan to turn "have nots" into haves" and to share the wealth of Britain far more effectively than Labour's alternative of hand-outs and short-term subsidies.

Our plans for the welfare state will bolster social security with personal security. Our new basic pension for the next generation will not be a paper promise from the state, dependent on rising tax. but a real fund belonging to each individual. It will help young people entering the workforce to build up independence and self-

Our determination to achieve a 20p basic tax rate within the life of the next Parliament will help all hard-working individuals and families to pay their own way. And our proposal for transferable tax allowances will help two million families



bring up children, or care for elderly dependants, with more money to pay the bills when a wife - or husband - stays at home to look after them.

And alongside personal security, we must continue to invest in our modernised health service, and in wider educational opportunities. Good education will provide the rungs for the ladder which make "haves" of "have nots". Over the past five years we have driven through changes to raise standards

in every school: tests, tables, independent inspection, better teacher training. Labour opposed them all.

We can now provide parents with a hard-edged guarantee of stan-dards in schools — taking over from Labour councils where they stand in the way.

Labour is not a party that cares about equality and opportunity in any but a theoretical sense. As Labour's leaders drive their own children miles to grant-maintained schools, do they spare a thought for the appalling standards in the local schools run by Labour councils? It is not a lack of funding that has led to Islington's record. Islington spends far more on education than the average local authority. It is hypocrisy and indifference, the haracteristics of the Labour Party in power - whatever its fine words in opposition.

In some respects, it is still time for change. We are that change. Over the 1980s and 1990s, the vast majority of Britons have enjoyed a greater leap in living standards than virtually any other people have ever experienced. Choice and opportunity are turning Britain into the best place in the world in which to live.

If you drive from one side of London to the other, you can tune

an election, the average family has gained £1,100 more spending money a year after tax and inflation. Eighteen years is nearly a lifetime in politics. Perhaps time to engender a mild curiosity: what in to 27 radio stations. Soon you will be able to receive 200 television

channels. You can sip cappuccino

in a pavement café or drink a pint

of bitter in the pub on Sunday

afternoon. You can go to the shops

when it suits you and your family.

and not just when the government

decrees. You can buy sushi and

exotic fruit at your local supermar-

ket. You can eat out at cosmopoli-

tan restaurants in villages that once

The key measures of education,

health, work and personal wealth

all show huge advances. The facts

are dry statistics, but they mark

real improvements in the quality of

everyday life. There are four mil-

lion more homeowners today than

there were in 1979, of whom 1.5

million are former council tenants

given the right to buy. One in three young people now goes to univer-

sity, compared with one in eight in

1979. Hospital waiting-lists are well

down, and life-expectancy is up

from 70 to 74 for men and from 76

Crime is down for the fourth suc-

cessive year. It is now 10 per cent below 1992 levels — more than half a million fewer cases — the biggest

drop since records were first kept.

And since we were last told that

this Government was about to lose

to nearly 80 for women.

lacked a fish-and-chip shop.

would the other lot be like? But ask yourself these questions: are you better off than you were five years ago? And is the country better off too? The Labour Party has opposed every major change this Government has brought about. How then can the Labour Party ask people to trust it to carry these reforms forward? If Mr Blair has had a conversion, then, as Margaret Thatcher has said, it is a "conversion of convenience". And conversions of convenience do not last.

Indeed, just this week we've seen how quickly Labour policy can change when the questions get tough. In less than a week their Manifesto has unravelled on issue after issue - on Scottish devolution, on privatisation, on Europe, on terrorism, on trade unions. If they can change their ground so fast on issues like these, how can they expect anything in their Manifesto to be taken on trust?

I joined the Conservative Party because it offered people like me hope, opportunity and independence. It showed faith and trust in people. Today the Conservative Party deserves re-election not only for what it has achieved in the past five years, but for the long-term ambitions it still has for Britain.

So will local government ruin Blair as well?

In his electoral eagerness to avoid charges of fiscal

perjury, the Labour leader has scuppered devolution

ony Blair is in metronome mode. His face, his hands, his whole body seem to be ticking off the days, the hours, the minutes, the seconds. The job is supposed to be in the bag, yet the candidate must go through ten interviews every day. Say anything, he is told, agree anything, just strike another day from the

I sense that Mr Blair's brain is io numb. He seems to have broken loose from his mooring and wandered to unknown lands. The British political psyche expects any party called Labour to be about unions, taxing the rich, helping the poor and loving the public sector. This distinguishes Labour from Tory. It helps us tell blue wires from brown, so we do not electrocute ourselves or blow the fuses on

election day.

The wires in this election campaign are all over the place. Labour's latest volte face, on privatisation, like those on the unions and tax, leaves "new Labour" undefined. This movement, launched single-handed by Mr Blair three years ago, lacks history, roots and ideology. To have lost one policy might be considered a misfortune, to have lost them all looks deliberate. Is this Mr Blair real, we wonder. When old Labour vanished in a puff, did some alien power beam. down a cohort of dark-suited clones, believing nothing and trained to speak only abstract

So far new Labour has enjoyed the protective shield of a Star Wars invader. The Tories, admittedly inept beyond credence, have shot peas at Mr Blair for six months. Last Friday, however, a chink in the shield appeared. The place was Scotland and the topic was our old friend, taxes.

"Fiscal perjury" is now considered permissible by democratic politicians the world over. "Watch my lips: no more taxes" has been a lie since it was coined by George Bush in 1988. The lie is a white one. The public likes to hear it, even knowing it to be untrue. Somehow the lie respects ritual and can be concealed with sophistries. The money will come from privatisation, or "greater efficiency", or that hoary from our policies". Since higher taxes now fall mainly on the poor, fiscal perjury is a conspiracy be-

tween the ruling classes and the

In Scotland, Mr Blair was caught out. He was asked whether his plans for devolution did not mean the possibility of higher taxes after all. What about the "tartan tax", not to mention the "London tax" and the "Taffy tax"? Mr Blair had an obvious let-out. He could simply declare his passion for devolution and say that local taxes were a matter for local electors. As he did say, tax-raising powers were, after all, enjoyed by parishes in England - though he was roundly misquoted by fools with no appreciation of

the paradox he was citing.

He did not exploit this let-out.
Instead, he qualified his belief in devolution and added that Labour would oppose higher local taxes alongside higher national ones. He

thus neglected what must surely be the leitmotif of his public spending strategy: tight central taxes relieved by rising local ones, the latter validated by Labour's belief in constitu-tional devolution. This is the one plausible, distinctive feature sur-

viving of Labour's programme. The central weakness of the Tory campaign is the growth in the tax burden since 1992. The principal reason for this is never discussed, ing. Ever since Margaret Thatcher introduced the poll tax in 1990, Cabinets have felt obliged to give huge sums to local councils to compensate for the shambles they made of local government in the 1980s.

In the two poll tax years of 1990 and 1991, Chancellors John Major and Norman Lamont had to hurl £4 billion at local councils to hold down poll tax bills, with a further El.5 billion in central costs. Mr Lamont had to find £4.5 billion in the election year of 1992 for the same purpose, raising VAT to 17.5 per cent to pay for it. Tony Travers and the LSE team have estimated that perhaps £20 billion was blown on the poll tax fiasco in just three

years. These were huge sums. What is not appreciated is that the fiasco has continued ever since. The Lamont election bribe was never reclaimed when council tax was introduced, lest that too should be unpopular. Britain saw a structural shift from local taxes to central ones. When Mr Major took office, local taxes contributed £12.2 billion a year towards the total tax bill. This figure is now just £10.4 billion, a drop of some £6 billion in real terms. Had they risen in parallel with other taxes, today's figure would probably be nearer £18 billion. Mr Major has cut local taxes by a third nationwide, balanced by a doubling of central grants to local councils. These sums



dwarf such publicised items as hospital beds or emergency spouses' allowances or prison buildings.

A combination of fear and contempt for local government has thus prevented the Tories from entering this election with a basic rate of income tax of 20p or below. This is the prize they have denied themselves. This local tax-cutting profilgacy has not brought the Tories an electoral return, whatever their hopes at the time. It has merely given the Cabinet and Treasury the buzz of wider control. Central taxes have had to rise to compensate. Nobody has cheered plummeting local

taxes. The reward has been zero. This may be history, but it is important history. For here lies a crock of gold for Mr Blair. Mr Major does not believe in returning fiscal accountability to local people. He believes that anyone else having tax-raising powers would "break up the Union" — though the Union survived Mr Major's tax-raising power when he was a Lambeth

councillor. Mr Blair claims otherwise. He is committed to reversing the constitutional centralism of the Major years. He is on record as opposing rate-capping, seeks a Lon-don mayor and believes that a Scottish parliament should be able to

levy taxes. This return to the status quo ante Thatcher is no great radicalism. Mr Blair's devolution ought in theory to keep the Treasury's central budget under control but let local councils or assemblies choose to spend more on schools, clinics, roads, playgroups and public transport. To pay for these im-provements, those bodies would have to account for the rates to their local electorates, as in most democracies in Europe and America. Central government need only make sure that the accountability "bites". Higher local taxes would be painful, but not so painful as higher central ones. With more councils turning Tory under a Labour government, Mr Blair would benefit in every way: rising council

taxes could be blamed on local Conservatives, while he could hold his hands in the air and plead devolution. No more central taxes; no more central control. Read my lips.

In other words, Mr Blair has an easy escape from fiscal perjury, and one that happily conforms to his constitutional beliefs. Yet he is wobbling. He has already backed away from allowing a Scottish pariiament to form its own view on taxation, demanding a spurious further referendum. He has not promised taxing powers to a Welsh or a London assembly, despite the importance of investment in the Tube to the role of the latter. More serious, Labour has backed down over rate-capping. Its manifesto reference is mendacious, promising to end "unnecessary" capping but to "retain reserve powers to control excessive council tax rises". This is precisely what capping is. The essence of local accountability is not to hold reserve powers in Whitehall. The essence is to make the pips squeak at the local ballot.

That was to have been the virtue of the poll tax - the sole one.

I sense that Mr Blair is so keen to avoid the charge of fiscal perjury that he will commit constitutional perjury instead. He is so desperate not to countenance any tax rises, even local ones, that he will keep in place the Tory centralist apparatus he has pledged to dismantle. He wants this in place to keep down spending and to keep restive local Labour councils in check. Which leads me to wonder what kind of Labour this man represents.

The irony is that, as the Tory experience shows, centralising taxes does not reduce them. The more distant the taxer from the taxed, the faster taxes tend to rise. This means that by refusing to allow local tax discretion. Mr Blair will risk not one perjury but two. Local government did for Margaret Thatcher by seducing her into the community charge catastrophe. It has done for Mr Major by forcing him to put up central taxes. Who knows what horrors it has in store for Mr Blair?

Balti ho!

MONDAY night saw the Prime Minister and his team in relaxed form, snapping the poppadoms in a Birmingham curry house. After coming down from the Grand National by helicopter, the PM and his entourage piled in to JJay's, a balti house in Unit 213 of Edg-baston Shopping Centre. It is the fourth time John Major has been to the restaurant in the past year.

Having arrived with his wife, his PPS, John Ward, and a couple of bodyguards, he ordered spicy poppadoms, chicken madras - a change from his usual lamb curries - and iced Indian lager to drink.

"We were starving," said one of the campaign team, "we'd only had a packed lunch and some superior homemade biscuits at teatime. By nine o'clock when we arrived everybody was ready for a curry." Also in the restaurant, by chance, were the BBC's Call My Bluff production team, who were summoned for a chinwag over the bhajis.

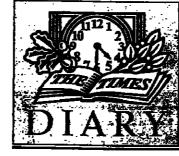
The Prime Minister and curries go back a while. His favourite Indian in London has always been Gandhi's in Kennington, near the Oval cricket ground. On his tours of the country, after a long day's business, he is known to stand up

clap his hands and say "Curry!" whereupon his bodyguards accept that the PM and his team march chutneywards.

Sadly in retreat is the John Major Lamb Curry Club, founded a couple of years ago to celebrate Major's asbestos mouth. According to Sir Rhodes Boyson, a founder member, "it was one of those things that came and went". Unlike the



"I'm fed up with the SWP. I'm joining the C of E



PM's own liking for tongue burners. Yesterday he was back at the curry tray for lunch with Asian businessmen at Edgbaston cricket ground.

Hawn billing

DISPLAYING an enthusiasm for Middle Eastern history that she had hitherto kept to herself. Goldie Hawn was the star turn at the launch in London of From the Holy Mountain, by the travel writer William Dairymple.

Pressed on her knowledge of the Byzantine period, the subject of the book. Goldie tossed her famous locks and giggled girlishly: "Oh yes, it's fun." Inspiration for her newfound interest in the area would have come from the man on whose arm she rested for the evening: Charles Glass, the



OVER AT the far-right Tory Monday Club, they have been cracking heads to come up with an election advertising campaign. Maurice Saatchi's role has been taken by



Goldie shimmering

their president, Viscount Massereene and Ferrard — full name John David Clotworthy Whyte-Melville Foster Skeffington. "Skeffers" for short.

Among the ideas put forward by the anti-European mob was a picture of Chancellor Kohl's bottom, with the words "Kiss arse or kick arse", to represent the choice respectively between Labour and Conservative. "I thought it would have looked pretty good," says Skeffington, whose own suggestion was to depict Kohl in a coal-scuttle helmet - "but you've got to maintain some dignity I suppose." The

final choice is a simple close-up of Kohl's face with the line "Do you want to make this man's day? If so, vote Labour". "It may not do much good," says

Skeffers, "but it makes us laugh." Last hippies

ALLEN GINSBERG'S friends gave the late beatnik and convention-basher - who died last week aged 70 - the sort of funeral he would have loved.

Some 250 ageing fans assembled at New York's Shambhala Meditation Centre, shed their shoes, and, with the occasional creak, tucked their legs into the lotus position for a lengthy ceremony, half of it in Tibetan. An altar was bedecked in



fruit and rice, with incense and candles burning. Mantra chanters included Lou Reed, Patti Smith, Kurt Vonnegut and Laurie Anderson. "No eyes, no sense, no pain," they cried.

The coffin was draped with a white silk flag, and the congregants "sent and received" — jargon, apparently, for exhaling and thus "sending our compassion to the person who has died before we breathe in to swallow any fear the person may be experiencing, being out of the body for the first time".



Patti Smith: one of the friends who saw off Allen Ginsberg

As one ex-hippie put it. Executive decisions are flying thick and fast from the office of Tory Party chairman Brian Mawhinney. His latest memo concerns breakfasts taken by staff at Central Office: cereals such as Rice Krispies. Sugar Puffs and nut-crunch-ing muesli are acceptable; the full English, however, should be discouraged. Fitness during the election campaign is paramount -

staff are being encouraged to take vitamin pills.





MOTES AND BEAMS

The Church has proved a better witness than advocate

In a campaign where moral questions have been more often directed to how Conservative MPs are employed in their spare time than how the unemployed can be provided with better use of their time, the intervention of the Joint Council of Churches is a welcome invitation to serious thought. Although the economy is growing and new jobs are created daily, unemployment in Britain is still unacceptably high. Politicians are competing for the votes of a fickle aspirant minority of floating voters in constituencies distant, physically and emotionally, from poverty. The Church has a duty to bear uncomfortable witness to the scale of want at a time of national selfexamination. Historic precedent, a sense of mission and the presence of the clergy in urban areas from which other professionals have fled should all equip the Church to speak the truth to power. It is all the more a pity that yesterday's report from the Joint Council, Unemployment and the Future of Work, should undermine its own authority with policy prescriptions neither economically wise nor ethically courageous.

The Church has a proud tradition of social engagement in the face of complacency from middle Britain. From Wesley to Temple there was a commitment to the poor but, more than that, a recognition that it was by the prompting of conscience, not coercion, that virtue and justice would flourish. That tradition has not, however, in recent years been properly nurtured.

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The 1984 Church of England report Faith in the City tried to draw attention to some of the strains on the nation's cohesion that Margaret Thatcher's modernisation of Britain brought. It was however a work which owed more to the sociology lecture theatre than the Methodist chapel. Unemployment and the Future of Work is a more thoughtful contribution to the debate but it still labours under the weight of

accumulated misconceptions about the capacity of the State to build Jerusalem.

The report's recommendations are for the most part either idle, or actively counterproductive. The proposed introduction of a statutory minimum wage would mean higher unemployment as firms shed more expensive labour in order to remain competitive. Plans to increase tax to create more jobs in the public sector are Pyongyang politics and Albanian economics. Increasing taxation is not an exercise in virtue, but compulsion. Taking wealth away from the productive part of the economy would make its expansion less likely. That would inhibit the growth on which decent public services and a satisfactory welfare state rely.

The Churchmen who would be Chancellor are also guilty of pointing to the mote in the politician's eye while ignoring the beam in their own. Scholars from Charles Murray to Gertrude Himmelfarb and the ethical socialist Norman Dennis have drawn compelling links between the growth in poverty and a generation's flight from ethical responsibility. The best route out of dependency is through hard work, thrift, and family stability. State action far from supporting these qualities, has been a solvent of virtue with the tax and benefits system insulating individuals from the consequences of foolish choices.

Rather than asking the State to act, the Church should be looking to scripture and tradition for the moral lessons which individuals should follow. It should advance not only precepts for the poor, but exhortations to genuine philanthropy from others. That spirit is best expressed, however, through voluntary action rather than at the bidding of leviathan. The Church is right to argue a society as sophisticated as ours should not tolerate want on the current scale but it should have more faith in its faith as

CLOSED FOR BUSINESS

Much politics but little government in Washington DC

Spring has come to the American capital but its process of government is in deep hibernation. Six months after his re-election Bill Clinton holds power without a programme. Newt Gingrich. Speaker of the House of Representatives, has all but disappeared from public view. The various Democratic Party fundraising scandals have produced political paralysis. Every potential appointee risks intense scrutinity of his or her role in the 1996 contest. Dozens of key assignments at home and abroad remain unfilled as a consequence. The White House spends most weeks fending off fresh allegations of financial malpractice while filling its time with foreign visitors.

Congress returned on Monday after taking a two-week break for Easter. It has barely been in session during 1997. This is thardly accidental. Newt Gingrich, who acknowledged serious ethics violations of his own and accepted a \$300,000 fine rather than risk outright censure, has struggled to survive as Speaker. His approval rating rarely exceeds 25 per cent. Keeping Congress out of town and out of trouble is central to his comeback strategy. He, too, has embraced international affairs - in this case berating the Chinese leadership in Beijing as part of his salvation. The sheer vigour represented by the Contract with America two years ago has vanished almost entirely.

Government may have ground to a halt but politics is ceaseless. With 34 months left until the next primary season starts, the main contenders are already in position. Vice-President Albert Gore and House Minority leader Richard Gephardt, the chief rivals for the Democratic party nomination, have each graced Iowa and New Hampshire. At least a dozen Republicans have made their initial moves. Lamar Alexander, the former Governor of Tennessee who visited lowa on 80 occasions in his last

campaign, has been back six times. The mutual exhaustion in Washington affects both parties but has different sources.

Mr Clinton asked for a second term but never offered an ambitious agenda. His spin-doctors sought to discover what citizens thought and then repeated it back to them. Mr Gingrich, on the other hand, suffered from an excess of agenda. He tried to rewrite most of 20th-century American history in 100 days and overreached himself in the effort. Republicans cannot agree upon their objectives let alone how they might push their plans past the President. In the absence of a coherent choice they have concentrated on the difficulties affecting Mr Clinton.

There is a wider problem that affects all sides and one that appears to leave them clueless. A broadly benign economy and the absence of an external enemy seem to have sucked the lifeblood out of politics. Liberals and conservatives alike cannot persuade the electorate to accept bold experimentation. Mr Clinton's drive for comprehensive health care reform lost all impetus once the country emerged from recession. The Contract with America ran out of steam because Congress could not generate the sense of crisis necessary to render it essential. The Democrats now possess no collective ideological identity whatsoever. The Republicans still have one but no clear idea how to advance it.

This drift speaks volumes about a superpower without a mission and statesmen without a mandate. But there are warnings here that go well beyond Washington. Tony Blair has adapted the idea of a contract from Mr Gingrich and adopted much of its content from Mr Clinton. He may well benefit from that formula at the ballot box. The American example, though, does not currently suggest that a combination of magisterial method and modest means alone will seem quite so compelling six months later.

TINDERBOX BRITAIN

Man must adapt to the vagaries of the weather

April seedlings are withered and dry, boats are left high on the mudflats beside the Thames, fires are sweeping the West Country as arson and carelessness take their toll on tinderbox Britain. April with his showers sweet would, in Chaucer's day, pierce the drought of March to the root; now this cruellest of months is prolonging the pain of a parched land. January was the driest on record, with a little over half an inch of rain compared with an average of 3½ in. In February more rain fell than usual, but March was one the seven driest this century. Rivers are down to less than a third of their average flow. Frogspawn is drying out in shrinking ponds. Voles are en-dangered as their riverbank homes disappear. Crops and livestock are threatened, and for the third year running Britain will face water shortages and hosepipe bans. Are seven lean years settling over Britain?

To those in southeast England, the outlook is certainly grim. Underground aquifers are almost dry. Hoverflies, crested newts, moorhens and water crowfoot are disappearing; cuckooflower and snakeshead fritillary could be lost for ever. The gentle rain, so typical of an English spring and so vital to nature, the environment and the economy, has been driven away by persistent high pressure. The water companies are warning of permanent restrictions and city

planners are questioning the old assumptions that domestic supplies would always be plentiful. There is talk of building emergency pipelines, using the canal network to bring water south and even setting up desalination plants on the south coast.

Global warming is the spectre behind the scenario of a future Britain with the climate of Spain. Scientists and meteorologists cannot produce firm figures, but there is enough evidence on carbon emissions. energy use and the greenhouse effect to give a frightening pattern to many of the trends that have made global weather so peculiar. Why are the winds across the Atlantic no longer blowing predictably? Winter storms are now marked by frequent gales. Countries which are normally dry have been inundated, while others have had no rain.

The weather cannot be changed: man must adapt. Already, gardeners are advised to buy Mediterranean plants and leave their lawns unsprinkled. Architects must design cisterns that need less water, planners must look to supplies before they authorise new housing, and industry must curb its profligacy. The water companies must invest heavily to plug their leaks. Wildlife must fend for itself, but vandals who deliberately set fire to the dry moorlands and forests must be pursued and punished with the full vigour of the law.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Wise use of water in time of drought

From Ms Jean Mcleod Forbes

Sir, The Water Services Association states in its current publication, Water - Meeting the Challenge: "We will ensure that, in times of drought, rota cuts and stand-pipes in England and Wales remain a thing of the past" and "We will manage our water resources so as to protect wetlands and improve low-flow rivers."

In view of the continuing drought, it would be enlightening if they and the other representative body, the Water Companies Association, could assure us that they are taking positive steps to ensure the future availability of water in all areas.

It is obvious that we cannot continue to abstract from depleted rivers. in addition, spokesmen for the water authorities are wont to imply that heavy rain, when it does occur, falls in the wrong places.

The philosophy of market forces would dictate that those who have the resources are in a position to supply to those with the demand, thus entailing a measure of cross-company transfer by pipeline and payment by the purchasing company to the supplying company at an agreed rate.

As a committed shareholder in my local water company I believe that metering will have to be introduced on a national and progressive basis. To ensure a degree of social justice, and to avoid penalising those on lowest in-comes, use should be made of charging bands, thus penalising those customers whose usage is much greater than average. This would encourage the consumer to use water wisely.

Flexibility and optimisation in the distribution of water is more important than the facility to buy water from different companies. It is now expedient that the worst-case scenario be confronted.

Yours faithfully, JEAN MCLEOD FORBES. 93 Stonebury Avenue, Eastern Green. Coventry, Warwickshire.

Italy and Albania

From Mr Nick Lynam

Sir, Your leading article, "Rethink for Rome" (April 2), deserved a sterner response than the polite, well-rea-soned and justified defence of Italian policy on Albania by the chairman of the Italian Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and others fletter, April 5). I have a more down to earth and objective view of your puny messag

Albania is on the doorstep of Europe. Something positive has to be done. First Italy, and now reluctantly Europe as a whole, are trying to work something out for the good of Europe and Albania.

What I find difficult to accept in your leader is the unhelpful, negative and cynical approach. Have you no positive suggestion to offer about this terribly dangerous situation? Is the UK far enough distant to turn a blind eye hoping the problem will go away. like the former Yugoslavia?

Action is needed here and in my view it has to be long-term, with the objective of restoring law and order, leading to peaceful and democratic

Yours faithfully, NICK LYNAM, 43 Rue du Marèchal Foch, 67000 Strasbourg. April ó.

Lottery and the Church

From Mr Oliver Lever

Sir, "Carey appeals for lottery funds" runs a headline in today's Times. At their autumn session in 1950, the Church Assembly reaffirmed the reso-

lution passed nem con at the autumn session in 1932, namely: That this Assembly views with grave anxiety the great evils caused by betting and gambling, and earnestly hopes the Royal tive means of checking incitements to bet-ting and the exploitation of the gambling

The Church of England, it seems, is vying with the Labour Party in a race to ditch principles.

instinct for private profit or for charitable

Yours faithfully, OLIVER LEVER, Blackacre, Back Lane, Malvern, Worcestershire. April 7.

Level golf course

From Mr H. J. Balderson

Sir, You report on golf clubs missing out on lottery money because of sexism (April 2).

I am very much in favour of true equality, ie, everyone to pay the same fees, play off the same tees, be assessed by the same handicap system with an identical handicap upper limit; each hole to have only one par and stroke index, and no one to receive "courtesy shots".

But please keep the showers sepa-

Yours sincerely. H. J. BALDERSON. 48 Coombe Drive, Dunstable, Bedfordshire. April 2

Public v private funding for the arts

From Mr John Simpson

Sir, Mr Henry Burke, artistic director

of the Norwich Theatre (letter, April

4), appears to be shocked at the sug-

gestion that Sir Alan Ayckbourn should dig deeper into his own pocket to save the Stephen Joseph Theatre.

But don't we all do just this with our

own pet projects? After all, Sir Alan

expects us to do just that when he appeals to the public for donations.

Mr Burke's comment that librari-

ans and firemen are not expected to

pay to provide their services struck a

chord. My daughter has a learning

disability and attends a day centre run

by social services. One day a week she works in a unit which provides buffets

on a commercial basis; for this she re-

Due to cuts in the social services

budget she is now expected to pay so-

cial services 80 pence per day for the

privilege of making sandwiches.

washing up, etc. I suppose it would be

a consolation to her, if she could un-

derstand the politics, should she be

asked personally to pay £1.20 to help

It is no use tinkering with the sys-

tem. The Stephen Joseph has received

a subsidy from the people of Scar-

borough via a grant from the borough

council. The cut in question relates to

a separate subsidy via the county

council. The county council grant re-leases further funding from the Arts

Council and goodness knows where

should be stopped and replaced by

one source of subsidy. It raises my

hackles when blackmail is used to ob-

tain funding, playing off one source of

Sir Alan Ayckbourn lost my sup-

port when he threatened to close the

theatre at the first hurdle, but it ap-

Perhaps now hospital managers,

school governors, etc, can see how the

system works and will threaten to

close their services at the first sign of

funding against another.

pears to have done the trick.

cutbacks.

Yours faithfully.

JOHN SIMPSON,

62 Pasture Lane, Seamer,

Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

This devious method of funding

keep Sir Alan's dream alive.

ceives 40 pence per day.

From Lord Lloyd-Webber and others

Sir, Each day your extensive Arts section understands and supports the importance of regional theatre in this country. How sad it is that your lead-ing article of April 3 stands in such stark contrast.

For decades successive governments and local authorities have financially supported regional the-atre. This support recognises the vital function regional theatre fulfils in this country. Many of our finest actors, playwrights and directors would not be where they are today without regional theatre. Your implication that continued

local authority funding for the arts is no longer viable is dangerous. We agree that those who have done well out of the theatre should plough funds back, and many do. However, to rely only on the few able to do so would starve the theatre of new talent, new writing and creative risk. Both political parties' manifestos, in their own ways, recognise this and espouse continued support for the long-established principle of public funding for

We believe that your comments on Alan Ayckbourn are unwarranted, He has willingly passed up the opportunity to have the Scarborough theatre named after him, in spite of having made a substantial contribution to its building costs. Furthermore, although Ayckbourn plays staged at the Stephen Joseph Theatre make up only one sixth of its annual repertoire, he has served as the theatre's artistic director since 1970 without ever having taken a salary. He also volunteers a royalty payment back to the Stephen Joseph Theatre from each and every one of his plays. His contribution to Scarborough and to theatre in this country is immense.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER, MICHAEL CODRON, RICHARD EYRE. ROBERT FOX. JULIA McKENZIE. ADRIAN NOBLE, DUNCAN WELDON. 10 Eaton Mews South, SWI.

Choices in childbirth

From the Editor of Midwifery Matters

Sir, On March 28 you published a letter from a university professor of obstetrics linking the rising Caesarean rate with fear of litigation; on of Appeal had affirmed the status quo that competent women should not be given medical intervention against their will; today you publish a letter from two lawyers worried about the competency loophole in the law lords ruling; and on March 19 you reported the Audit Commission's worries about costs of the rising Caesarean section rate.

All is not well on the childbirth front and Caesarean section is only the tip of the iceberg, representing the most extreme form of medical intervention in childbirth.

Women's voices have been heard; their needs are simple, they want to be listened to, they want to be treated with kindness. Baroness Cumberlege's excellent report, Changing Childbirth (1993), backed them up. It said that women should be treated as individuals, they should be cared for by someone they know, they should be given information about alternative treatments so they can choose care appropriate to their needs.

But it is proving extremely difficult to change childbirth. While many NHS trusts have piloted "Know Your Midwife" schemes and found them effective and popular with women, all too often the schemes are shelved because they are "too expensive" or have led to totally exhausted midwives. enable mothers to make wise de-The anonymous labour-ward midwife still cares for most women in

Hospitals are failing to distribute

Informed Choice leaflets designed to

labour - and is often rushed off her feet trying to give continuity of care to two or three women at once. It is cheaper and easier to monitor babies electronically, to give women drugs and epidurals to dull the pain. This style of care saves on labour-ward midwives' salaries, but it transfers the costs to the operating theatre and fills the post-natal wards with distressed women who have difficulty adjusting to motherhood.

Is it not the ultimate frony that, having reached the point when childbirth has never been safer for mother and baby, we are still unable to see it as anything more than the extraction of a live baby from a live mother and to hell with the physical and emotional damage done to the luckless patients?

Our maternity services need a radical rethink. Somehow we have to find a way to put the humanity back into childbirth, to respect pregnant women and give them the luxury of being supported in labour by a midwife they already know.

Let us resurrect our maternity services from an unacceptable limbo. Let us nurture the souls of our mothers and babies, not just their

Yours sincerely, MARGARET JOWITT, Editor, Midwifery Matters. Walford Lodge, Walford, Craven Arms, Shropshire.

Calm before the rage?

From Mr David T. Staples

Sir, You report today that road rage is a "middle class crime".

Has any research been conducted to examine whether there is any correlation between the increase in road rage and the growth of traffic-calming measures? The ever-increasing numbers of sleeping policemen, chicanes. road-blocks and similar devices are almost guaranteed to bring on rage in all classes.

Yours sincerely, DAVID T. STAPLES. 11 St Luke's Church, 42 Mayfield Road, N8. April 4.

Joys of the road

From Mr John Mendes

Sir, When I gave up my MGB for transport more suited to my years, I had to accept anonymity on the roads. No more the friendly wave of the hand, or the flashing of lights, as I met another "B", and no longer the enthusiasm shown if both cars were the same colour and of a similar year.

It was a delightful club and, as a matter of interest, many of the passing drivers who waved were women. Perhaps Ms Maureen Colouhoun (letter. April 3) was one of them.

Yours faithfully. JOHN MENDES. 1 Lower Street, Cavendish, Suffolk.

Taking the rap

From Dr Ian Olson

Sir. For over forty years it has been known that the "bad" poet William McGonagall based his unusual verse forms on the Scots/Irish "Come-all-ye" folk ballad tradition of his Edinburgh childhood. Sing them in that style and all becomes clear. American rap singers of his everpopular poetry (report, April 3) thus

have more understanding than their pompous, pontificating and patronising professors.

Yours faithfully, J. A. OLSON, 20 Burns Road, Aberdeen. April 4.

Soaking up science

From Mr R. D. Vernon

Sir, Contemplating the ludicrous goings-on of the jogging scientists and their relative wetness (letters, March 27, April 1, 4, 7), it occurred to me that my late Lancashire grandmother would have summed them up as follows: "They're too dait to come in out of the rain."

Yours faithfully, R. D. VERNON 40 St John's Hill. Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

> Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Poor rewards for speech therapists

From Mrs Maeve Creber

Sir. Congratulations to Professor Pamela Enderby, the Bristol speech therapist who has fought for II years for equal pay for women professionals in the National Health Service. Yesterday, at an industrial tribunal in Croydon, the Government conceded her case.

Having had two careers, I am well placed to compare the nature of the work, the professional status and the remuneration of each. First, I trained and worked as a speech therapist for ten years, specialising in brain-damaged children. I worked in several major hospitals. Then, after the necessary study, research and experience, I became a university teacher of English literature.

Discussion of 19th and 20th-century poetry with intelligent people, though not without its stresses and frustrations, is hardly arduous and usually pleasurable. Coaxing the often severely damaged brain to reorganise itself towards learning or relearning language, both in terms of comprehension and expression, takes immense skill, experience, a lot of faith and limitless patience.

To face the condition of the patients and the distress and anxiety of their parents and relatives, and to do this every day, is not only arduous, but seriously emotionally demanding, no matter how detached one tries to become. Yet for this work, were I to return to it, I would be paid just less than half as much as for university teaching.

I am in the fortunate position of being able to help one or two children without making any charge, but most speech therapists cannot do this. I am amazed that there are still 7,000 people, predominantly women, in this country prepared to take on such illrewarded work. Let us hope that because of Pamela Enderby's struggle, things will change.

Yours sincerely. MAEVE CREBER, 13 Russell Terrace. Exeter, Devon. April 4.

Battlefield heritage

From Mr S. W. Martin

Sir. You report (April 7) the controversy over the proposal to build houses on the battlefield of Tewkesbury. There were similar problems with the Shrewsbury battlefield.

In our case it was Shropshire County Council who, as landowners, initiy wanted to sell the field for indus-

trial development in the late 1980s. Fortunately English Heritage intervened and added Shrewsbury to its register of battlefields, thus ensuring its preservation, since historic sites in Shropshire are protected under planning policy. I am surprised that the same appears not to be the case in Tewkesbury.

As a result of a management study by English Heritage, it is now more fully realised than previously that our field is an important part of the town's medieval heritage and an asset for recreation and education as well as attracting visitors.

As with Tewkesbury, so here the battlefield boundaries could not be clearly defined almost 600 years later. This does not matter. The important thing is that the largest possible area of what on historical evidence is thought to be the battlefield site should be retained as open land for the benefit of future generations.

Yours faithfully. S. W. MARTIÑ (Chairman, Shrewsbury and Atcham Branch, Council for the Protection of Rural England). Bear Steps Office, St Alkmond's Square, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Farmers and hedges

From Mrs Anne Hudson

Sir, Mr James Crosbie Dawson asserts that he can farm more effectively without hedges (letter, April 5).

Whilst it is true that landowners who enjoy country sports are likely to encourage the growth of hedges and copses as cover for game and wildlife, hedges also provide valuable protec-tion and windbreaks to livestock and also provide against soil erosion.

I have seen at first hand the damaging effect the lack of hedgerows has caused to arable land belonging to my own family.

Without hedges Mr Crosbie Dawson could eventually have no land to

Yours faithfully. ANNE HUDSON. 60 Cranmore Gardens, Aldershot, Hampshire.

Roles reversed

From Mr T. R. Marshall

Sir. How refreshing, in these troubled times, to find a member of the aristocracy winning the Grand National on a horse called "Dobbin".

Yours faithfully, T. R. MARSHALL, 27 Waldemar Avenue, SW6. April 8.

Friggs of the Land Control



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE April 8: The Queen held a Council

at 12.00 noon. There were present the Rt Hon Antony Newton MP (Lord Presithe Viscount Cranborne (Lord Privy Seal), the Baroness Blatch (Minister of State, Home

Office) and the Rt Hon Sir John Wheeler MP (Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office). Mr Nigel Nicholls was in attendance as Clerk of the Council. The Rt Hon Antony Newton MP had an audience of Her Majesty before the Council.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a Luncheon Party at Windsor Castle for members of the Order of Merit at which The Princes Margaret, Countess of

Snowdon was present.
The following had the honour of eing invited: Sir Isaiah and Lady Berlin, Sir George Edwards and Mrs Angela Jeffreys, the Reverend Professor and Mrs Owen Chadwick. Sir Andrew and Lady Huxley, Dr and Mrs Frederick Sanger, the Lord and Lady Menuhin, Professor Sir Ernst and Lady Gombrich, Dr and Mrs Max Perutz, Dame Cicely Saunders. Professor the Lord and Lady Porter, the Lady Thatcher and Sir Denis Thatcher, Bt. Dame Joan Sutherland, Sir Michael and Lady Ativah, the Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and Dame Jennifer Jenkins, Sir Aaron and Lady Klug, Sir John Gielgud and Sir Edward Ford (Secretary and Registrar of the Order of Merit).

Mrs Robert de Pass has succeeded the Hon Lady Morrison as Lady-in-Waiting to Her Majesty. **BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

April 8: The Duke of York today visited Hampshire and was re-ceived by Mr Nicholas Jonas (Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire). His Royal Highness this morn-ing visited George Gale and Company Limited, Brewers, and opened a new building at Horn-

The Duke of York this afternoon toured Apollo Fire Detectors Lim-

His Royal Highness, Patron, later visited the Jubilee Sailing Trust, Jubilee Yard, Woolston, Southampton.

The Duke of York this evening attended a Dinner on board SS Canberra, Southampton, to mark the ship's retirement and to commemorate the Fifteenth Anniversary of the commissioning of Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company vessels for the Falklands Campaign.

CLARENCE HOUSE April 8: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, Canadian Forces Medical Service. today received Major-General J.W.B. Barr, Colonel

KENSINGTON PALACE Grand Prior, the Order of St John this morning presented The Sov ereign's Award to Miss Elaine Taylor at Kensington Palace. The Duchess of Gloucester to

day opened the new Operations Building at Warrington Police Station and afterwards opened the new St John Headquarters at Warrington Hospital. Later Her Royal Highness opened the new Brow County Primary School. Runcom, Cheshire,

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester this evening attended a Dinner given by His Excellency ssador of the Republic of the Amh Korea and Mrs Dong-Jin Choi at the Korean Residence, 28 Parkside,

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE April & The Duke of Kent, Honorary Air Chief Marshal, this morn-

ing visited Royal Air Force Stafford Supply Depot, Beacaside, Staffordshire, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire (Mr James Hawley).

Royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Olympic Association, will attend the executive board meeting at I Wandsworth Plain, London SW18, at 11.00.

The Duke of Gloucester, as President of St Bartholomew's Hospital, will open the new St Bartholomew's and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry buildings, Whitechapel, London The Duchess of Gloucester will open Jewish Care's new residential and nursing home, Lady Sarah Cohen House, the Asher Loftus Centre, Colney Hatch Lane, NII, at

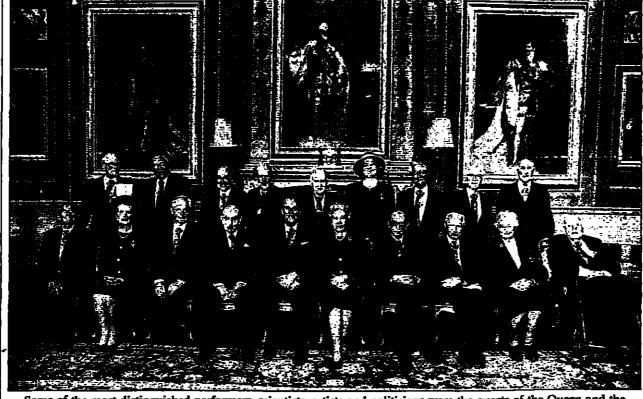
The Duke of Kent, as Colonel of the Scots Guards, will attend an Equerries' reunion dinner at St

Birthdays today

Mr Severiano Ballesteros, golfer. 40: Lord Justice Simon Brown, 60: Sir Brian Cubbon, civil servant, 69; Lord Deramore, 86; Mr G H Edwards, Rector, Morrison's Academy, Perthshire, 39; the Most ostolic Nuncio, 88; Mr Robson Fisher, former headmaster, Bryanston School, 76: Lord Fitt, 71; Viscount Gage, 63; Miss Hannah Gordon, actress, 56; Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple, Lord-Lieutenant of East Lothian, 71: Mr Roger Harrison, chairman, Toynbee Hall, 64; Sir Graham Hills, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor. Strathclyde University, 71: Mr Torn Jackson, trade unionist, 72; the Hon Bernard Jenkin, 38; Mr Neil Jenkins, tenor, 52; Mr Alan Knott, cricketer, 51; Mr Tom 69: Mr Martin Margiela, fashion designer, 43; Professor Basil Mitchell, FBA, philosopher of re-

ligion, 80: Mr Peter Moores, former chairman, Littlewoods Organisation, 65; Mr Vincent O'Brien, racehorse trainer, 80; Sir Michael Ogden, QC, 71; Sir Michael Palliser, former Head of the Perkins, rock singer and guitarist,

Sir Michael Richardson, former chairman, Smith New Court, 72: Professor K.G. Robbins, Senior Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales, 57; Mr Martin Rogers, former Chief Master, King Edward's School, Birmingham, 66; Miss Valerie Singleton, broad-caster, 60; Mr Michael Somare, CH. first Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, 61; Professor D.M. Walker, QC, 77; Mr B.H. Weston, former chairman, Manweb, 67; Mr Frank Yardley, racehorse trainer, 54; Miss Frieda Young, diplomat, 84; Sir Richard Young, industrialist, 83.



Some of the most distinguished performers, scientists, artists and politicians were the guests of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at a luncheon party for members of the Order of Merit at Windsor Castle yesterday. Standing (left to right), Sir John Gielgud, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Sir Michael Atiyah, Dr Max Perutz, Lord Menuhin, Dame Joan Sutherland, Lord Porter, Sir Aaron Klug, Sir Edward Ford (Secretary of the Order of Merit); seated (left to right), Dr Frederick Sanger, Lady Thatcher, the Rev Professor Owen Chadwick, Sir George Edwards, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen, Sir Isaiah Berlin, Sir Andrew Huxley, Dame Cicely Saunders, Sir Ernst Gombrich

Reception

H M Government Mr Anthony Nelson, Minister for Trade, was the host at a reception given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House to mark the 1997 General Meeting

Luncheon

of the Berne Union.

Lord Mayor of Westminster The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress were the hosts at a luncheon held yesterday at City Hall in honour of Mr Sydney F. Sporle.

Lecture

Second Nathan Lecture on the Environment

Professor Gordon Conway, Vice-Chancellor, University of Sussex, delivered the Second Nathan Lecture on the Environment last night at the Royal Society of Arts in honour of Lord Nathan. The hosts were Denton Hall's Environ-mental Law Team and Sir Richard Southwood presided.

Pattenmakers' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Pattenmakers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr Ian Scart Hall; Upper Warden, Mr Richard Paice: Renter Warden, Mr R.P. Ziff; Warden to the Trade. Mr R.A. Kottler.

Appointments

Mr Robin Christopher to be this month in succession to Mr Graham Burton who is moving to a new Diplomatic Service appointment.

Air Vice-Marshal Clive Evans, Colonel Geoffrey Godbold and Major Barnaby Cockroft to be Deputy Lieutenants of Greater London.

Lord Saatchi and Sir Idris Pearce have been appointed to the Council of the Royal College of Art. Sir Hugh Leggatt has become a trustee of Lord Lloyd-Webber's Art

Foundation.

Memorial services

Mr Michael Saunders

The Lord Chancellor was present at a memorial meeting for the life of Mr Michael Saunders, HM Procurator General, Treasury Solicitor and Queen's Proctor, held yesterday in Lincoln's Inn Hall. Mrs Anna Saunders, widow, Miss Penelope Saunders, daughter. Mr Joss Saunders, son, Mr Richard Saunders, brother, and Mr Christopher Mansell were the speakers. Mr Nicholas Cartledge, flute, and Mr Andy Cartledge,

piano, played during the service. The Master of the Rolls, the Attorney General and the Solicitor General attended. Among others General attended. Among others present were:
Mrs Dorls Saunders (mother), Mrs Richard Saunders (sister-in-law), Mr David Saunders, Miss Deborah Saunders, Professor Robert and Dr Barbara Cohen, Mr Adrian Cohen, Dr Leslie Culank, Mrs J Culank, Miss A Culank, Mr Leslie Jackson, Mr and Mrs David Jarvis, Miss Primrose Orgel, Mr and Mrs Anthony Proctor, Mr and Mrs Nomal Mrs Nomal Thomson, Mr and Mrs Donald Thomson, Mr and Mrs Poter Trail.

Mrs Donald Thomson, Mr and Mrs Peter Trail.

Lord Borrie, QC, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Sir Patrick Maybew, Lord Justice and Lady Rennedy, Sir Michael Kerry, Mrs Justice Anden, Mr Michael Kerry, Mrs Justice Anden, Mr Justice Laws, Mr Justice Masses, Sir Thomas Legg, QC, Sir John Balley, Sir Frank Berman, Sir Patrick Brown, Sir Terence Burms, Sir Patrick Brown, Sir Terence Burms, Sir Robin Butter, Sir Henry de Waal, Lady Dyson, Sir Alian Green, Sir Basil Hall, Sir Gerald Hosker, Dame Barbara Mills, QC, Sir James and Lady Dyson, Sir Alian Green, Sir Basil Hall, Sir Gerald Hosker, Dame Barbara Mills, QC, Sir James and Lady Nursaw, Sir William Reid, Sir Barry Shaw, QC, Sir David Spedding, Sir Brian and Lady Unwin, Sir Richard Wilson, Judge and Mrs Roger Cox, Judge David Pearl.

Mr David Bentley, Mr Michael Bichard, Miss Christine Bowker, Mr Geoffrey Bourtan, Mrs Ann Bowiel, Mr Henry Boyd-Carpenner, Rabbi Dr Sydney Brichto, Mr and Mrs John Bones, Mr and Mrs Chris Brighton, Mrs Rosemary Buli, Mr land Burns, Mr Geoffrey Butt, Mr Edward Caldwell, Mr Mike Calloway, Mr John Catilia, Mr Mike Callowa

King Charles II, Rotterdam, 1649;

Isambard Kingdom Brunel, en-

gineer, Portsmouth, 1806; Charles

Baudelaire, poet, Paris, 1821: Paul

Robeson, singer and actor, Prince-ton, New Jersey, 1898; Hugh Gaitskell, leader of the Labour

Party 1955-63, London, 1906; Sir Robert Helpmann, ballet dancer and choreographer, Mount Gam-

Cleave, Mrs Geraldine Courney, Professor T C Dalmitth, Mr Rex Davie, Mr and Mrs Mike Dawes. Dr and Mrs Arnold Franks, Mr and Mrs Harold Gabel, Mr Edward Guyver.

Mr and Mrs Michael Hall, Mrs Arnold Franks, Mr and Mrs Harold Gabel, Mr Edward Guyver.

Mr and Mrs Michael Hall, Mrs Sinsan Hall, Mr Sam Hall, Mr sam Mrs Calin Harris, Mr John Hayes, Mr Noel Hepworth, Mr Richard Higgins, Mr Henry Hodge, Mr David Hogg, Mr Tony Hollis, Mr Richard Hooker, Mr Mreiny Hodge, Mr David Hogg, Mr Tony Hollis, Mr Richard Hooker, Mr Mrichael Huebner. Miss M Jacquemain, Mr and Mrs Jan Karsten, Mr Roger Kaye, Qc, Miss Helena Kennedy, Qc, MrChris Kerse, Mr Gregor Kowalsid, Mr and Mrs Jan Karsten, Mr Roger Kaye, Qc, Miss Helena Kennedy, Qc, MrChris Kerse, Mr Gregor Kowalsid, Mr and Mrs Jin Mr Stephen Laws, Mr and Mrs Stephen Lewis, Mr John Lioyd.

Mr John McCluskie, Mr and Mrs Francis MacFarlane, Mr Murdo Maciean, Mr Stephen Laws, Mr John Lioyd.

Mr John McCluskie, Mr and Mrs Karl Nowman, Mr Richard Mottrain, Mr Robin Mountifield, Mr Phillip Needham. Mr and Mrs Margery Oliver, Mrs Nickie Oppenheimer, Mr Tony Osborne, Mr and Mrs Margery Oliver, Mrs Nickie Oppenheimer, Mr Tony Osborne, Mr and Mrs Andrew Owen, Mr David Pannick, Qc, Mrs Susan Pearl, Mr David Pearson, Mr David Roodyn, Mr Robert Ricks.

Mr and Mrs Roger Seableme-May, Mr David Roodyn, Mr Roy Schutz, Mr And Mrs Noger Seaburne-May, Mr David North, Mr Peter Smith, Mrs North Shirley Smith, Mrs Velene Strachan.

Mr Mike Thomas Mr Robert Ward, Mr Mark Watson, Mr Alan Wilkers, Mr Robert Ward, Mr Mark Watson-Gandy, Mr Richard White, Mr David Wilkinson, Mr Alan Wilkerty, Mr Michel Wooler.

Mr George Staple (Serious Fraud Office), Mr Stephen Richards (First

Mr Geoff Norman paid tribute. Among those present were: Mr and Mrs Charles Everitt (brother-in-law and sister). Miss Joan Barton isister-in-law), Mrs Gill Tlmmis (daughter-in-law) and Peter and Stephen Tindale (grandchildren): Viscount Caldecote. Sir Cyrll Taylor. Mr Richard Seebohm. Mrs Shella Innes and Mrs Dilys Hudson. representatives of 31. SPAB. Richmond College, the American University in London, EDBRO, Clarks Shoes, Commodore Shipping (Guernsey), the English Heritage Orchestra. Combai Stress. Which: the British Institute of Management and many other

Professor Rosalind

British Canadian Investment

Trust, was held yesterday at St James's, Piccadilly, Mr Ian Haigh

officiated and gave a reading. Miss Kate Tindale. granddaughter, read the lesson. Mr John Tindale,

son, Lord Chadlington, Mr Dennis Constantine, Mr Jon Foulds and

Mr Geoff Norman paid tribute.

Hill A memorial service for Professor Rosalind Hill, Emeritus Professor of History, London University, former Vice-Principal of Westfield College and Honorary Fellow of Queen Mary and Westfield College, was held yesterday at St Michael's, Cornhill. The Rev Professor Stuart Hall officiated.

Professor Graham Zellick, Principal of Queen Mary and Westfield College and Deputy Vice-Chan-cellor of London University, and Mrs Kathryn Harris of the Ecclesiastical History Society, read the lessons. Professor Christopher Brooke, FBA, Emeritus Professor of Ecclesiastical History, Camge ilnivers dress.

Anniversaries

BJRTHS: James Scott, Duke of bia, South Australia, 1909, Monmouth, illegitimate son of DEATHS: Kine Edward IV DEATHS: King Edward IV. reigned 1461-70 and 1471-83, London, 1483; Lorenzo de Medici (The Magnificent), Careggi, Italy, 1492; François Rabelais, writer and physician, Paris, 1553; Francis Bacon. Viscount St Albans. Lord Chancellor 1618-21, London, 1626; Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Pre-Raphaelite poet and painter. Birchington-on-Sea, Kent, 1882;

Edward Thomas, poet, killed in action, Arras, 1917; Mrs Patrick Campbell, actress, Pau. France. 1940; Dr C.E.M. Joad, civil servant, author and controversialist, Hampstead, 1953; Frank Lloyd Wright architect Phoenix Arizona, 1959.

The Hudson Bay Company ceded its territory to Canada, 1896. Germany invaded Denmark and Norway, 1940.

Forthcoming marriages

and Miss A.E. Rider

The engagement is announced

between Thomas, younger son of

Mr and Mrs J.B. Kimbell, of

Petershain, Surrey, and Aimee

Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R.W. Rider, of Woodham,

Surrey. Flight Lieutenant R.J. Knighton

The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr

and Mrs Michael J. Knighton, of

Hilton, Derbyshire, and Caittin, younger daughter of Professor and Mrs Edgar W. Jenkins, of Leeds.

and MISS C. Streuon
The engagement is announced between Neil, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Lawson-Smith, of El Pinar, Southern Spain, and Carla, daughter of Mr and Mrs Trevor Stretton, of Coldstream Farm,

The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of the

Revd. Melvyn and Mrs June Matthews, of Chew Magna, Somerset, and Shauna, elder daughter of the late Mr John Edward Rudge and of Mrs Eveline

Eastern Cape, South Africa.

Mr M.J. Matthews

and Dr S.D.E. Rudge

and Miss C.E. Jenkins

Mr N. Lawson-Smith

and Miss C. Stretton

Mr A. Russell and Miss R.M. Fairbairn The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Mr and the Hon Mrs Michael Russell, of Wilby, Norfolk, and Rose, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Fairbairn. of Ansty, West Sussex.

Mr G.J. Blackburn and Miss S.A. Bates The engagement is announced between Graham, son of Captain and Mrs John Blackburn, of Dilton Marsh, Wiltshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Bates, of Westhumble,

Mr J.L.J. Burr and Miss K.T. McWilliams The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr Jim Burr and the late Mrs Gillian Burr, of Fetcham, Surrey, and Karen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward F. McWilliams, of Hong Kong.

Surrey.

Mr R.J.S. Carswell and Miss A-M.L. Dobson The engagement is announced between Robert James Stewart, son of Mr and Mrs Robert S.L. Carswell, of Winchfield, Hampshire, and Anne-Marie Lorraine. daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian C. Dobson, of Lower Raydon,

Suffolk. Mr A.J.R. Cullen and Miss D.K. Godwin-Austen The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Mr Jeremy Cullen, of Montou, Aveyron, France, and Mrs Tove Reventiow, of Frilford, Oxon, and Diana, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Robin Godwin-Austen, of Shalford, Surrey. Mr R S Culme-Seymour

The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of Mr Mark Culme-Seymour, of Netherbury, Dorset, and Mrs Sally Oulme-Seymour, of Fulham, London, and

Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Vause, of Loxwood, West Mr C.J. Davies and Miss S.E. Coxon The engagement is announced between Craig John, son of Mr and Mrs John Davies, of Swansea, and Sally Elizabeth, daughter of Mrs

Jean Coxon and the late Mr Roy Coxon, of Chelsfield, Kent.

Rudge, of Ferndown, Dorset. Mr B. Tuttle
and Miss V.J. Cripps
The engagement is announced
between Ben, elder son of Mr and
Mrs Michael Tuttle, of Beacons-

field, Buckinghamshire, and Victoria, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Cripps, of Cuckfield, West Sussex. Mr D.A. Williams and Miss A.L. Hinton The engagement is announced

between Darrell, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Williams, of Nantgarw, South Wales, and Alexandra, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Hinton, of West Rounton, Northallerton, North Yorkshire.

Mr R.C. Williamson and Miss J.E. Harley

The engagement is announced between Robin, younger son of Mr Walter Williamson and the late Mrs Williamson, of Lowestoft. Suffolk, and Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Basil Harley, of Great Horkesley, Essex.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Nicholas Armstrong, Curate, Filey (York): to be Priest-incharge, St Mary, Alveley, and St Andrew, Quatt (Hereford). The Rev Brian Camp. Priest-in-charge, St Giles, Sheldon: to be Rector, St Giles, Sheldon (Birmingham), suspension of presentation having been lifted. The Rev Michael Cartwright Honorary Priest-in-charge, Altarnon w Bolventor, Laneast and St Clether: to be Vicar,

Treverbyn (Truro). The Rev Derek Chandler, Curate, Bitterne Park, Southampton (Winchester): to be Team Vicar, Melton Mowbray Team Ministry (Leicester).

The Rev John Crossley, Assistant be Team Vicar-designate, Penrith, and part-time Chaplain of Newton Rigg College (Carlisle). The Rev Janet Driver, Honorary Curate, St Margaret, Putney: to be Honorary Curate, St Paul, Streatham (Southwark).

The Rev Guy Elsmore, Curate, St Michael, Huyton: to be Senior Assistant in that parish (Liverpool). The Rev Susan Field, Chaplain to

Loughborough University and Director of Post-Ordination Training (Leicester): to be also Bishoo's Chaplain for Women's Ministry,

same diocese. The Rev Clive French, Chaplain of the Royal Naval College, Green-

ANY TICKET obtained Th

Concerts & any sporting 0171 488 4414 (City).

wich: to be Rector, St Dunstan, Cheam (Southwark). The Rev Ralph Goldenberg, Curate-in-charge, St Andrew's, Edgware: to be Team Vicar, Christ Church, Roxeth (London). The Rev Nigel Holmes, Vicar.

Resignations and retirements Canon Ian Knox, Canon Residentiary of Wakefield Cathedral and Director of Ecomenical Affairs (Wakefield): to retire May 31 and be appointed a Canon Emeritus. Prebendary John Pearce, Rector, St Anne's, Limehouse (London): to retire July 31.

Prebendary Peter Pytches, Vicar.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

You will show me the path of life; in your presence is the fullness of joy, at your right hand are pleasures for ever-more. Psalm 16:11

BIRTHS

BALDWIN-EVAMS - To Kay and David on March 5th another wonderful son, Owen, a brother for Theo.

brother for Theo.

BEVAR - On Semiay April 6th
at The West Suffolk
Hospital, Bury St Edmunds,
to Alexandra and James, a
daughter, Amelia Alexandra.

CHAMBERLEN - On April 4th at
The Fortland Hospital, to
Caroline and Julian, a son.
DEMBERSKA - On 31st Manch
at The Fortland Hospital, to
Louisu (nee CharitonMeyrick) and Jan, a
daughter, Mariella.

DOON - On April 4th 1997, to

DIXON - On April 4th 1997, to Michael and Joanne (née Larner), a daughter, Alice Lonisa, a sister for Emily REENO - On 4th April, to

REEMO - On 4th April, to Fieur (née van Roosmalen) and Teddy, a son and a daughtez, jerome Leonardus and Isabella Muria, a brother and sister for Julius.

MAMILTON-HOLBROOK - On Musch 27th at The Portland Hospital, to Meltem and Simon, a besutiful daughter - Aleszandrea Besatrice.

KELLY - On 5th April at The Portland Hospital to Declar and Anne, a son, Lism John, a brother for Isabelle, Aldan, and Boln.

LAWRENCE - On April 6th, to Heather (née Bunting) and Mark, a son, George Frederick Stanley, a brother for Geoffrey.

MATHGAS - On April 4th, 1997,

for Geoffrey.

MATHEAS - On April 4th, 1997,
In Austin Texas, to Anna
(née Gendei) and Chudes, a
daughter, Jesse Venstla.

McKENNA - A beautiful baby daughter, Georgina Emma on let April 1997 to lan and Belinda McKenna (née Backett) of Wimbledon, PALMER - On 25th March at

The Royal Surrey County Hospital, to Nell and Mary Jane, a daughter, Phosbe SENSE. On 3rd April 1997 at The Portland Hospital, to Amanda and Jaramy, 2 son, Daniel Alexander. STEMTHORD - On 4th April 1997, to Lucy (née Chatterton) and Philip, 2 daughter, Chlos Giriz. VOICE - On April 5th 1997, in Birmingham, to Andrea and Richard, a daughter, Khianna

WOOLGER - On April 8th, to Alison (née Price) and Jarvis, a daughter, Araminta Clementine, a sister for Maximilian, Imogen and Octavia.

ADDA - Maximilian Joseph Alvan, on Friday 4th April 1997 in Barbados aged 12 years. Beloved son of Michael and Judith, brother of Gavin, Benjamin and Alexia, and nephew of Robin and Pernille:

ARREID - Anne, on Sunday April 6th peacefully at King Edward VII Hospiral. Write of the late Hyman Arbeid, sister of the late Maurice Stephany and the late Peggy Weber, sister-in-law of Joan Stephany and Sol Arbeid, Funeral Service at Golders Creen Crematorium at 12.30 pm today, Wednesday 9th April Memorial Service at Sym this evening at The West London Synagogue, Upper Berkeley Street, London WI.

flowers only but donations to the RNMDSF, would be

ALBERY - Barbara Yu Ling (née Lee), beloved Mother of Wyndham and Bronson, died peacefully at home on 6th April. Funezal 11th April. Donations for Barbara's palliative carers in preference to flowers, c/o Bronson Albery at The Top Flat, 65 Beak Street, London, W1R 3LF.

BARKER - Captain Nick CBE
DL Royal Navy on April 7th
at home. The most
courageous man, beloved
husband, father, and
grandfather. The Funeral
will be on Saturday 12th
April at 2 o'Clock at \$t
Michael and All Angels,
Alwinton, Northumberland.
A service of Thanksgiving
will be held on Wednerday
June 12th at All Hallows by
the Tower London at 11 am.
All enquiries either to the
Boyal National Mission to
Deep See Fathermen - Teb
0171 487 5101 or G.T.
Rogerson & Son in Rogerson & Son in Northumberland - Tel: 01669 640216. Family

DEATHS

BEECROFT - Dana, on 6th April 1997, aged 40. Peacefully after a fight against fliness faced with great courage, calmness and dignity, Dearly loved wife of Lionel. Much loved by all her ramily. An exceptional and special friend to all who knew and loved her. Funeral Service at St Martins Church, Dorking on Monday, 14th April at 12 noon, Flowers and donations. (Princess Alice Hespice) to be sent to J. Stoneman, Doran Court, Reigate Road, Redhill, RH1,6AZ.

BESUGHET-SELIGMAN - Elizabeth Hildagrace, devoted wife of Blaise, died at their home in Swinserland on April 5th 1997. She was the charished daughter of Elizabeth and Peter Seligman, loving mother of Claire, David, Jaques, Lavinia and Anna-Moon and greatly missed grandmother of eight grandchildren. Lavinia, johanna, Gabriella, John and Bruce have lost a sister they loved and admired. There will be a Service of Thanksgiving in May to commander to a wonderful, but too short, like.

BIBBY - Sandy (Howard Morton) on 6th April in hospital following a car accident. Born 1918; educated at Oundle School and Free Funeral 12 noon Monday 14th April, Bron-Y-Nant Crusastorium, Dinerth Boad, Collwyn Bey, No flowers please. Funeral Director Arwyn Roberts D1745 812935.

Sactor Arwyn Roberts
01745 812935.

BOOTE - Henry James, MEE,
peacefully on April 3rd
1997. Funeral Service at
Holy Trinity Church,
Stratford-upon-Avon, on
Thursday April 17th at
11.30 am. Family flowers
only, Donations if wished to
Alcheimer's Disease Society,
3 Malbrock Road, Pumey,
London SW15 GUE.

BROOKER - Cathrina Maria
(Mia) on April 5th
peacefully, Beloved wife of
Jun (41993) and mother of
Puter and Richard
Cremation at Randalis Park
Leatherhead, at 4.30 pm on
Friday 18th April Flowers
and exquicites to F.W. Chitry
& Co., 45 Elmgrove Road,
Weybridge, Surrey (01932)
842220.

COOKE - Arthur Harold died peacefully April 7th 1997 aged 84. Lowing hasband of fits, darling Daddy to Alisa, Bundan and Kieran, denset brother of Florrie and much loved Grandpa to his ten grandchildren. "Life will never be quite the same again". Funeral 2.30 pm Friday April 11th 1997 at 5t Peter and 5t Paul, Lower Brailes, near Banbury, Oxon. Family flowers only. Enquiries to R Locks & Son. Lower Brailes, tek (01608) 685274.

DAVEY - Peacefully at the

Lower Brailes, tat (01008)
685274.

DAVEY - Peacefully at the
home of his son on Sunday
April 6th 1997, Dr. David
Gaznet Davey OER. MSE. FhD.
Dearly loved hasband of the
late Elizabeth Gale and
father of Katherine, Angels
and Peter, also a devoted
grandfather and greatgrandfather. Funeral Service
on Saunday April 12th in
the Service Rooms of Bobert
Samson Ltd., 175 King
Street, Broughty Ferry,
Dundee at 10.30 am to
which all friends are
respectfully invited.
Cremstion thereafter
private.

DAWSON - Namele on April
5th aged 84. Warden of the
Birmingham Settlement
1947-1955. Principal FSW
Earls Court GGC. Enquiries
to Levestons 0171 485 1989

FOSTER - Pamela passefully
on 6th Arrel balesed wides

to Levertons 0171 485 1989

FOSTER - Pamela peacefully
on 6th April, beloved widow
of Lude and much loved
mother and grandmother.
Funeral 14th April 4.30 pm.

Funeral 14th April 4.30 pm.
GLOVER - Decree John Acnold
of Folkestone, Kent, passed
away on 4th April 1997. No
flowen please, Donations if
desired to the Medical
Benevolent Society clo
Hambrook & Johns, 1
Dymchurch Rosd, Hythe.
GLEST - Mrs. Entherine Mary
(Molly) aged 82, mother of
M.R.J. Guest, passed away
5th April 1997. May ber soni
rest in peace. Funeral
rest in peace. Funeral
service to be held at 2 pm on
Thursday 24th April 1997 at
5t Leonard's, Semiley,
followed by private
cramation at Salisbury.
HORHOCKS - Jun suddanly on cremation at Salisbury.
HORROCKS - Jim suddenly on
April 7th, dearly beloved
husband, father and
grandfathen Cremation at
Weeley Crematorium 15th
April at 1445. Flowers to P.G.
Orley, High Street, Printon
or donations to the British
Esant Foundation or Boyal
Masonic Benavolunt Fund.

MENDERSON - On April 6th, in Fembury Hospital after a brave Ught against filmess, John Gabriel Dearly loved husband of Janet, loving father and grandfather. Private cremation. Service of commemoration Tuesday April 22nd at 230 pm at St Albans Church Frant. No flowers please, donations if desired to Muscular Dystrophy c/o T.W. Boorman Funeral Services, 31 Mount Ephraim, Tuntridge Wells, Zent TN4 8AA. Tel: (01892) 541070.

channy or your choice.

JOAD - Doctor Margaret died

4th April 1997, widow of
Peter Greenhill Andrews and
mother of Nicolas and
Charlotte Funezal at 8 Mary
the Virgin, Bishopstone, near
Swindon, Wiltshire, at
3,30pm Friday April 11th
Flowers or donations to
Packer and Slade, F/D, City
Bank Rood, Chuncester, Glos.
GL7 1LG.

GET ILG.

KETH-LUCAS - Prof. David

Keith-Lucas C.B.E., M.A.,

Hon.D.Sc., F.I.Mech.R., Fing.

Hom.F.S. As.S., (Hon.F.Al.A.),

on April 6th 1997 aged 86
peacefully in hospital Much.

loved husband of Phyllis
(Evenud, née Whurr) and of

the late Devothy (née
kobertson), devoted fathers

of Mary (Benjamin), Michaes

and Christopher and a loving

grandfather. Cremation

privata. Mamorial service at

Emberton Parish Church on

24th May at 2.30 pm.

Enquiries please H.W. Mason

& Sons, tel: (01908) 611112.

KETTIE - John Anthony, of

whish Hospice selectise.

LAYTON - On 5th April 1997,
Ms 91st birthelsy, Eric John
of Famhain, Serrey, Funeral
Aldershot Cremetorium
Friday 11th April at 230 pm.
Donations in Ben of Bowest
to AEC c/o Thorne-Leggett,
Petunsfield Road, Whitehill,
GU35 9AE.

BIVEE - Nors (nie Crimwood), my beloved wife my Swamlake, Swamlake for ever, died 1st April. Cremation at Golders Green today, 9th April at 3 pm. Dosstoms to a charity of your choice.

RETTLE - John Anthony, of Newport Pagnell, refired from the LLEA, on 7th April 1997, at the Hospice of Our Lady and St John, Willen, Milton Keynes, Requies Mass at St Bede's Church, Newport Pagnell on Priday 11th April at 12 noon. No flowers but donations to Willen Hospice welcome.

ROMG - Janet. On 7th April 1997, at home in her 51st year, after a painful illness, horne with courage, humour and dignity. Adored wife of Peter, Mummy of Ra and Rossie and sister of Mary. Funeral at 5t Stephen's Church Lansdown Road. Church, Lansdevin Road Bath at 2 pm on Wednesday 16th April. Family flower only please. Donations to Dorothy House or Cances Essearch c/o Hooper 2 Sons. 13 St James's Parade, Beth.

LEIGH - Michael John PHD.
PISC. Pencefully at home on
6th April aged 54, dearest
husband of Pauline, much
loved father of Victoria and
james and beloved son of
Howard and Mary. Funezal at
Chelmsford Crematorium
2pm Priday 11th April, No
flowers by request, but
donations if desired to
Camesr Research Campaign
180, Queens Road,
Buckhurst Hill, Essex IGP
5ED.

LIEWELYN - John Lister CBE.

MA. peacefully at home at
Mayford, Woking, Surrey on
Saturday 5th April 1997
aged 90 years. Funeral
Service at Church of St
Edward the Confessor,
Sutton Green, Guildford,
Surrey, on Priday 11th April
1997 at 3 pm. Family
flowers only, donations to
Cancer Research or Surrey
Voluntary Association for
the Rind, All enquiries to
Cyril H. Lovegrove F.D.,
Woking, Tel: (01483)
773456.

Investore: Peacefully on 7th April. Nam, adored wife of Hugh and much loved mother of jemie and Geoff, grandmother of julia, Mopey and Jessica and great-grandmother of Tomany and Amelia. Funeral Service on Monday 14th April at 2.30pm at the Church of St George, Hinton 8t George, near Grewherne, Somerset. Family flowers only or donations to Cancer Rassarch clo E. Whits & Son, 128-139 East Beach, Taunton, Somerset, TAI 3HN.

on Tuesday lots April Private cremation a Guildford Crematorium. No flowers but if desired donations to the Commands Benevolent Fund.

NEWMAN - Frank Christopher PhD, B.Sc, C. Chem, FECS, died suddenly aged 67 an March 27th in Cornwail. Denrest Husband of Moyra and Father of Tim, Med, Nessa and Phil. Retired Director of R.P. Chamicals, Member of the Court of Worshipful Company of Homers. Missed by all his family and many friends. The funeral has already taken place.

PASCALL - Elizabeth on Saturday 5th April at Charles Disney Memorial Home, Nairobl. Sister of Dr. Kenneth Reid of Bezhill-on-Sea, East Sussex. A very great triend to many people. Cramation private, Thanksgiving Service at Lady Chapel, All Saints Cathedral, Nairobl, at 11 am Stidey 11th April.

RABUTOM - Ainn Godfrey, late of Bucklets Hand, Hants. On 5th April, 1997 in hospital, aged 90 years. Much loved father of Sarah and grundfather to Hugo, Sophile and Rollo. Servica at Harrogate Crematorium, (Toukshire) on Monday 14th April, 1997 at 2,20pm. Further details c/o H,W. Carter, Funeral Directors, 01642 700208.

MacCallum - On 4th April
Major Laurence Eric
MacCallum M.C., No.2
Commando and former
Tennis Umpire, passed away
after a long filhess. All who
have him are invited to the
funeral at Friary Church of
the Holy Spirit, Chilworth,
near Guildford, at 2.15 pm
on Tuesday 15th April.
Private cremation at
Guildford Crematorium. No

TRUEY - Suddenly in Leighton Hospital, Crewe, aged 39 years, Nigel, loving husband of Tosca and adored father of Luke, Dean and Derter of Bridgemere, near Nantwick, Funeral at Crewa Crematorium on Tuesday April 15th 1997 at 11 am. Flowers by choice. Any enquiries to F.J. Trestider & Son, tel: (01270) 626653.

WENTWORTH - Elizabeth Barbam. On April 8th 1997 peacefully in her sleep. Dearly beloved wife of Michael, mother of Caroline, Eoderick and Edward and stepmother of Jill, Elizabeth: and Nichales, Funeral at All Saints Odtham 3pm Thursday April 17th, Family flowers only. Donations in lieu if desired, to The Ecycl National Lifeboat National Institution,

WANTED

BIRTHDAYS

ROLEX & CARTIEN wanted High cash prices paid, 0171 495 8992 or wish 31 Park Lame WI

Mexborough: to be Priest-incharge, St Peter, Nether Hoyland (Sheffield). Prebendary Ray Howard Jones, recently retired: to be Prebendary Emeritus of Hereford Cathedral The Rev Richard King, Priest-in-charge, Orlestone w Snave and

Ruckinge w Warehorne to be Diocesan Ecumenical Officer (Canterbury). The Rev Tom Leary, Vicar, St Mary, Merton: to be also Assistant

The Rev Howard Mayell, Priestin-charge. Black Torrington, Highampton, Bradford w Cookbury and Thornbury (Exeter): to be Team Vicar, Ledbury Team Ministry (Hereford).

Jesus Church, Forty Hill (London): to retire October 1.

PERSONAL COLUMN

POLITZER - Pencefully on April 4th 1997, Diana, widow of Ronald, dearly loved stepmother of Caroline and Beverley, much loved mother of Clare, Vicki, Tessa and Nigel, dearest sister of Jane and an adored Granny. and an addred Granny. Funeral Service at Tunbridge Weils Crematorium Monday April 14th at 1230 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Alsheimer's Disease Society.

WENTWORTH - Elizabeth

YOUNG - Nancy May, On 2nd April, 1997, peacefully in hospital after a brief illness, aged 87. Nancy, of Priors Marston, Warwickshire, formerly of Worlord, Suffolk, was the much-loved sister of Keith and sunt to Adam and Simon.

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ROYAL ASCOT
FRENCH OPEN TENNIS
RYDER CUP
ENGLAND V AUSTRALIA
PILKINGTON CUP FINAL
HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA
MICHAEL JACKSON
U2.SUPERTRAMP
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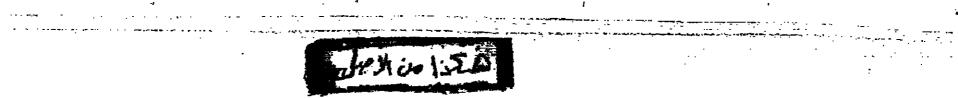
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agents. ABTA E143X

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Jamiroquai,
Phanton, Salgon etc,
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OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR SIR MALCOLM BROWN

Professor Sir Malcolm Brown, FRS. geologist, died on March 27 aged 71. He was born on October 5, 1925.

ith the death of Malcolm Brown, science has lost one of the foremost members of its immediate postwar generation and the international geological community one of its best loved and most respected colleagues. As a prolific and inspired researcher Brown won a worldwide reputation for his contributions to petrology and was one of the few scientists outside America to be invited by Nasa to work on the samples of lunar rock brought back by the Apollo II mission. As a lecturer first at Oxford and then, from 1967 to 1979, as Professor of Geology at Durham, he had a long and distinguished teaching career. And as Director of the British Geological Survey, from 1979 to 1985, he guided that body through a difficult period in its history. overseeing its restructuring and modernisation, and greatly enhancing the quality of research.

George Malcolm Brown was born at Redcar in northeast Yorkshire and received his early education at Coatham School. He entered the RAF in 1943 and during his training attended a short course for RAF cadets at the University of Durham. There he encountered Lawrence Wager, recently appointed Professor of Geology. The influence exerted by Wager and by his subject brought Brown back to Durham as an undergraduate on his demobilisation in 1947. He graduated with a first in 1950; Wager regarded him as the best student he ever had.

Moving to the Chair of Geology at Oxford in 1950, Wager took Brown with him as a research student, setting him to work on the layered ultrabasic igneous complex of the island of Rum. Brown made a marvellous job of this research, further developing ideas enunciated by Wager in his seminal study, with W.A. Deer, of the Skaergaard Intrusion in East Greenland. This fruitful line of research culminated in the publication of Layered Igneous Rocks (1968) which comprised a worldwide review of layered complexes, undertaken by Brown in collaboration with Wager and completed by Brown after the latter's death.

Brown's interests in igneous petrology were strengthened by his participation in Wager and Deer's 1953 East Greenland geological expedition to the Skaergaard area. On his return, he was elected to a Commonwealth (Harkness) Fellowship and went to Princeton University, 1954-55.

Brown was appointed to a new lectureship in petrology at Oxford in 1955 and in 1965 was elected one of the founder fellows of the new graduate college of St Cross. He proved an



ood supervisor of research students. His own research expanded to encompass work on the isle of Skye and in the Bushveld complex of South Africa, and a major investigation, undertaken with Wager, into some of the volcanic islands of the West Indies. His experience was further broadened by a fellowship at the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution in Washington, 1966-67.

In the autumn of 1967, Brown took up the Chair of Geology at Durham. in succession to Kingsley Dunham, who had moved on to the directorship of the Geological Survey. His direction of the department was positive and imaginative, further enhancing its already enviable reputation. His utter integrity and clarity of thought, coupled with kindliness and a sense of humour, stood him in good stead in university affairs, as Dean of the Faculty of Science and a Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

Brown was selected by Nasa as one of the small number of scientists outside the United States to participate in the hunar research programme, and much of his research in his earlier years back at Durham was concentrated in this field. His inspired and inspiring teacher and an exceptionally meticulous petrological work on the

was under way when Brown took office, but he oversaw the bulk of it and set an example to senior staff when he moved his office to the new site in 1983.

As director he reorganised the man-

volving relocation of hundreds of staff.

gement structure to give more flexibility to the way in which scientific research was conducted, but also in recognition of the need to manage the careers of individual scientists. One of his most important contributions was to encourage the use of the multidisciplinary team concept to break down barriers between the subdisciplines of the science, in order to enrich the quality of research being done.

In 1985 he wrote BGS's first terms of reference and saw to publication of the first strategic plan, which established the framework for the modern BGS. The year 1985 also saw the official opening of the new headquarters and the survey's 150th birthday, which Brown celebrated with a series of open days that gave thousands of visitors direct access to the work of the organisation he was now proud to

On retirement, Brown was knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours of 1985. The informal intimation that the honour was as least as much for his scientific work as for his directorship gave him the greatest pleasure. Additional honours that came his way included, as well as his Fellowship of the Royal Society, the Wollaston Fund Award (1963) and the Murchison Medal (1981) of the Geological Society. and honorary doctorates from Leicester and the Open University.

Brown's survey post, as the top geologist in government service, carried responsibilities as geological adviser to various government departments, and to a number of governmental and industrial organisations overseas. He was also chairman of the board of directors of Commonwealth Geological Surveys, concerned with development programmes in the 35 nations of the Commonwealth. These links, together with others in industry and the academic world, meant that Brown went into retirement with an active professional future to which to look forward.

He became a consultant to the United Nations and also served as a member, and later chairman, of the board of the International Geological Correlation Programme, under the egis of Unesco and the International Union of Geological Sciences, though this last phase of his career was cut short by his last, unexpected illness. Malcolm Brown's first marriage was

dissolved in 1977. His second, to Sally Marston in 1985, was blissfully happy. and they made a most effective team; she survives him, together with the two step-daughters he acquired through her and to whom he was devoted.

STUART COLLINS

Stuart Collins, CB, chief inspector of audit, Department of the Environment, 1968-76 died on March 26 aged 81. He was borg on February 24, 1916.

STUART COLLINS played a leading role in the development of local government audit. Over the course of almost 20 years in which he held positions of increasing influence, he helped to bring about great changes in his field. His far-sighted views also laid the foundation for the establishment, some years after his retirement, of the Audit Commission for Local Authorities in England and Wales.

Stuart Verdun Collins was educated at Plymouth College and entered the Civil Service as an audit assistant in the Ministry of Health in 1934. After training, war service and extensive local government audit practice in Lancashire, he was appointed district auditor in London in 1958. Thereafter he was deputy chief inspector of audit, 1965-68, and chief inspector, 1968-76.

While London district auditor, he served as honorary secretary of the District Auditors' Society and through that office also was able to exert significant influence on the development of district audit. He was concerned to evolve close relationships with other accountancy bodies, particularly the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, to which he was elected a member in 1968.

As chief inspector, Collins ran the District Audit Service: he also advised ministers on local government finance. There was an obvious danger of political influence being brought to bear on the former role via the latter, although there were powerful safeguards against this. But such was Collins's strength of character that there was in any case never the slightest chance of this occurring.

bringing about important changes to the structure of local government audit. Before the Local Government Act of 1972 most local authorities were wholly or partly subject to district audit, but there was a residue which had either "elective" or "professional" audit. Neither of these arrangements had the rigour of the

Collins was influential in



district audit system, particularly as to the accountability of members and officers.

The 1972 Act provided for a single system of audit whether the work was carried out by a district auditor or an auditor approved by the Secretary of State. Local authorities were given a choice of auditors, but not a choice of system, and most of them chose district audit.

Collins was a strong advocate of the single system, but he also argued that an independent body was needed to appoint and supervise auditors. His recommendation was not taken up in the 1972 legislation for England and Wales, however, though the idea was later adopted in the 1973 Scottish legislation which set up the Commission for Local Authority Accounts.
Undeterred, Collins re-

turned to the need for an independent body to supervise the audit function in the evidence he gave to Sir Frank Layfield's committee of inquiry into local government finance, 1974-76

The Layfield committee backed the proposition, but there was no effective action in support of it until Michael Heseltine's initiative which resulted in the establishment of the Audit Commission in 1983, when Collins saw the fulfilment of his ideas. Complementary to these

structural changes was the development in district audit of more systematic auditing. and its extension to the review of management controls and value for money. Collins encouraged these developments, which initially did not meet with general approval in local government. He established specialised auditors in, for example, computing, who developed techniques which were well in advance of others in the same field.

All of this was carried out in spite of continuous staffing problems. Pay and staff numbers were related to Civil Service arrangements and caused difficulties when applied to what amounted to an independent profit-making audit practice.

Collins was appointed CB in 1970. He was much admired for his independence and lucidity of mind. His far-sighted direction of district audit and his development of links with others in the same field were undoubtedly factors in the development of the accountancy profession as a whole.

On retirement he returned to his West Country haunts and his love of sailing, as well as the practice of his extensive DÍY skills.

His first wife, Helen, whom he married in 1942, died in 1968. In 1970 he married Joan Walmsley, the widow of a colleague. She survives him together with two daughters from his first marriage and a step-son and two step-daughters from his second.

TOMOYUKI TANAKA

Tomoyuki Tanaka, film producer and creator of Godzilla, died in Tokyo on April 2 aged 86. He was born in Osaka on April 26, 1910.

A CONTRACT

A SHREWD Japanese business mind seems an incongruous progenitor of a creature like Godzilla - a towering reptilian beast belching radioactive flames from its prehistoric maw. But it was Tomoyuki Tanaka, the head of

production at the Toho Movie Company, who dreamt up this science fiction monster and sent it into action, stamping impetuously over the Tokyo skyline, strewing famous landmarks in its path and crunching passing trains in its mouth on the way.

His invention proved an enormous success. There was something unintentionally ridiculous about this 400ft beast which, thumping along in a path already beaten by King

Kong, caught the popular imagination. A series of more than 20 Godzilla films followed. The cumbersome leviathan did battle with a mammoth moth in Godzilla versus the Thing (1964) and fought fiercely with a stupendous shrimp in Godzilla ver-sus the Sea Monster (1906). The tail-lashing dinosaur with its pylon-melting breath became something of an icon of kitsch. Gradually Godzilla

turned from villain into hero.

LEGAL NOTICES

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He foiled a world takeover plot of giant cockroaches in Godzilla versus Gigan (1972) and saved Japan from a monster born of waste and bloated on factory fumes in Godzilla versus the Smog Monster (1972).

samples of moon rock recovered by the

Apollo II space mission brought him

an international reputation, and in the

years following the first moon landing

he was constantly in demand as a

Brown's research output was formi-

dable and he was author or part-

author of several books on petrology

and lunar studies, and of some 120

scientific papers. He was elected to the

Fellowship of the Royal Society in 1975.

most broadminded of geologists, and it

was, therefore, fitting that he was

selected once more to succeed

Dunham, this time as Director of the

Institute of Geological Sciences (as the

Geological Survey had become: howev-

er, to everyone's relief, in 1984 Brown

changed the name to the British

one of particular difficulty; further-

more, unlike some of his predecessors,

he had had no previous experience of

public service. He had to face cuts in

funding and the Butler inquiry into the

function and justification of the sur-

vev's existence. The move to centralise

the survey's operations at a new

headquarters near Nottingham, in-

His period as director (1979-1985) was

Geological Survey).

He was one of the best-informed and

speaker at conferences the world over.

Although in his long life Tanaka produced some 200 films, many of artistic distinction. Godzilla remained his favourite brainchild and when the studio finally had the creature "put down" just 16

Tanaka never got over it. Tomoyuki Tanaka began work at the Toho film studios in 1940. By 1953, a year after the American occupation of Japan had ended, he had

become head of production. But by this time he found himself facing a decline in Japanese cinema, eclipsed by blockbusters from America. It was The Beast from 20.000 Fathoms, Eugène Laurie's film about a rampaging monster, unthawed from

millenial slumber by the heat

of an atomic explosion, which

caught Tanaka's imagination

in his first year as head of

months ago it was said that

production. It was inevitable that it should have done so. The Japanese were still suffering from post A-bomb trauma. A few months previously the Americans had exploded an H-bomb, many times more powerful than the two atomic ones used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, on Eniwetok in the Marshall Islands, some 2,000 miles southwest of Japan. Then in 1954 another had been exploded on Bikini Atoll. Its fall-out afflicted the crew of a Japanese fishing boat, Lucky Dragon, one of whom died of radiation sickness. For the Japanese anything which con-

nected the ideas of America

and nuclear explosion evoked

powerful emotions. And the

acute Tanaka, quick to recog-nise the symbolic potential of

The Beast from 20,000 Fath-

oms, created an apocalypitc

A DAY IN COURT.

belonging to the Earl of Charlemount,

and Richard Dobie, her husband, was charged with receiving the same, know-

ing it to be stolen. The female prisoner

was a servant in his lordship's establish-

ment. A policeman stated that he went

to the house of the male prisoner, and on

searching his boxes, found a sword and

some table linen, part of the stolen

property. Lord Charlemount was exam-

ined from the bench, and stated that

both the prisoners entered his service in

1830, but having no further occasion for

a groom, he recommended the man as

coachman to another nobleman. He had ever entertained the highest opinion of

them, and great confidence was placed

in the woman. - Both prisoners were found Guilty. Mr Phillips said that Lord

Charlemount had been robbed of

jewellery to the amount of 3,000 l., and if

the prisoners knew anything about it.

perhaps at the 11th hour they would

make an atonement. The Recorder said

Mary Dobie was indicted for stealing a quantity of linen and other property

monster of his own. The name of the fishing boat became the inspiration for Godzilla.

Commissioning a script from Shigeru Koyama, a science fiction writer. Tanaka went on to work with the special effects genius Eiji Tsubuyaya. Unlike The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms which had been mechanical, Godzilla was a man dressed in a monster suit, left free to rampage among miniature models of cities. In Japan it was called "Gojira", a name which, derived from the nickname of a brawny studio hand, was a conflation of the first syllable of gorilla and the last two of

kujira which means whale. When Godzilla, King of the Monsters, the dubbed American version of Gojira, was released in 1956 the Japanese film industry was lifted out of the doldrums. It achieved worldwide success at the box office. Additional footage was added to the American version of the movie, introducing the actor Raymond Burr as a and certain scenes of the devastation which the monster wreaks on Tokyo were cut out - they were thought to be too poignantly reminiscent of Hiroshima. The film which had been terrifying to the Japanese - a warning of apocalypse - seemed oddly ridiculous to the Americans. Over the course of more

classic hard-boiled detective,

than 20 sequels, despite increasingly sophisticated animation techniques, Godzilla steadily lost his capacity to terrify. Tanaka collaborated profitably with American companies on increasingly ludicrous Godzilla adaptations and his beast became some-thing of a freelance do-gooder. saving the world from the threat of a motley assembly of gargantuan aliens.

Aside from Godzilla, Tanaka was the producer of several historical films including among many others, Kihachi Okamoto's Japan's Longest Day (1967) and the magnificent epic Kagemusha (Shadow Warrior, 1980), which was the first Japanese film in almost 25 years to win the Golden Palm Grand Prix Award at

Tanaka rose within the Toho Movie Company to become chairman of the board of directors and eventually chief executive producer. But Godzilla remained always his monument.

Tomoyuki Tanaka was married. He had three children.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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ON THIS DAY

April 9, 1838

One spontaneous incident of levity contrasted with the grim threat of transportation that hung over the court all day.

that offences of this description must be severely punished, as an example to others, and he sentenced them to seven years' transportation.

John Barton, aged 63, was indicted for stealing several articles of bed-furniture, the property of Christian Butcher, Hannah Abel, and other persons. The prisoner pleaded guilty to all the charges. Several persons spoke of his former respectability, and the prisoner put in a petition staning that he was ruined by taking the Grafton Arms upon false representations, and paying 1,100 l. He was sentenced to one year's hard labour.

At I o'clock the Grand Jury came into court, and complained that having got through all the bills but one, they had been waiting half an hour for a witness. If they were to be thus delayed, they should have other presenta-tions, and be detained until midnight, which was too had after devoting 12 hours daily during the week. The bill remaining was connected with a robbery committed an hour before. The Recorder intimated that it was a case of speedy justice, and they must do their part of the duty as quick as possible. The gentlemen retired and shortly came into court in a trot, which caused great laughter, and the foreman, almost out of breath, presented his last bill, which, he said, was the 296th they had disposed of. The Recorder congratulated them, and they were then discharged.

E. M'Carthy was sentenced to seven years' transportation for robbery. She threw herself on the floor and yelled in a frightful manner, vociferating the most dreadful oaths and imprecations. She defied the exertions of all the turnkeys and it was not until several policemen rushed to the dock that she could be carried out of court.

Solution to Puzzle No 20,448

NEWS Major encourages Hamilton

■ John Major strengthened his support for Neil Hamilton last night when he insisted that he would not bend to threats from people who wanted the former minister forced out.

The Prime Minster suggested that Mr Hamilton's right to stand for Parliament while protesting his innocence of the cashfor-questions charges against him had become a matter of principle that should be upheld irrespective of the damage it

Bell stays cool under fire

Martin Bell broke cover from his campaign HQ in Knutsford for his first press conference in the Tatton constituency and met a heavy barrage from Neil Hamilton and his wife. Mr Hamilton claimed a moral victory but Mr Bell said he now knew he was going to be the new MP...... Page 1

Canberra retires

A dinner held on board the P&O liner Canberra in Southampton marked the 15th anniversary of her joining the Falklands task force. She will be taken out of service in September......Page 2

Canoe deaths lawsuit An activity centre that paid thousands of pounds in compensation to the parents of four children

who drowned in the Lyme Bay canoe tragedy is suing the Government for damagesPage 3 Life of luxury

Britain's best paid union official, a British Airways steward, has been dismissed for assaulting a member of a rival organisation who was taunting him about his luxurious life... ...Page 3

Father's agony

The father of two boys drowned on a fishing trip in the Bristol Channel described the agony of living with the knowledge that one had died for him Page 4

Roux tastes defeat The restaurateur Michel Roux

faces a E400,000 tax bill after an unsuccessful High Court battle on over tax avoidance on his pension scheme... ... Page 4

Tinderbox heathlands Many acres of heathland are at risk from fire as the dry weather makes dead gorse and heather vulnerable to arsonists and careless visitors......Pages 5, 21

Meat hygiene

About 11,000 butchers' shops across the UK will be forced to spend up to £20,000 improving hygiene as a result of the official report into Scotland's E-coli food

poisoning epidemic Page 6 The birth of galaxies

Astronomers at Durham University have produced a complete description of the evolution of the galaxies, beginning a few hundred thousand years after the Big ..Page 8

China out of favour

President Clinton faces growing anti-Peking sentiment from both parties in Congress, which threatens to give him a rough ride this summer in his attempts to boost trade with China Pages 6, 21

How Titanic sunk

The Titanic was sunk by six narrow slits on her starboard side and not by a huge gash to her bow, French and American divers have found......Page 16

Looted art on show

Nearly a thousand works of art which were looted from French Jewish families by the Nazis went on show in Paris in an attempt to find the owners.... Italian fiasco

Uncertainty over Italy's imminent military intervention in Albania threatened to bring down Professor Romano Prodi's Centre Left Government Pages 17, 21

British skins feel force of the sun

A week of brilliant sunshine brought Britain's earliest sunburn warning when the Cancer Research Campaign gave warning of the risk of skin cancer. The London Weather Centre said the maximum unprotected period in the sun at this time of year should be 25-30 minutes for people with fair skins and 40-45 minutes for those with average skins Page 1



Colonel Tommy Tucker, Common Cryer and Serjeant-at-Arms for the City of London, proclaiming the dissolution of Parliament from the steps of Royal Exchange. He prefaced the proclamation with the traditional "Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!" Page 1

BUSINESS ...

Store wars: Tesco notched up another victory over J Sainsbury in the battle of the superstores by overtaking it in group profits for the first timePage 25

Halifax: The building society has revealed details of the share dealing service that it proposes to offer to shareholders...

Barings victims: Thousands of Barings bondholders, who lost £275 million in the 1995 crash, can expect to hear details shortly of a

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 2.4 points to close at 4269.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 99.4 to 99.1 after a fall from \$1.6297 to \$1.6236 and from DM2.7879 to DM2.7779.... Page 28

SPORT

THE TIMES TODAY

Football: Manchester United's two matches against a Dortmund team packed with German internationals may be the most momentous double yet for their manager. Alex ... Page 48

Golf: Tiger Woods is seeking victory in the Masters, an event in which no black golfer was invited to play until Lee Elder qualified in Page 46

Cricket: The vexed issue of women joining MCC, the world's most famous cricket club, will be decided by its membership in the next .. Page 48

Racing: Nearly 12 million people watched the BBC's live coverage of the rearranged Grand National, making it this year's most-watched sports event on TV Page 43

Feeble Faust: ENO's new production of The Damnation of Faust was expected to provoke riots but in fact the most dynamic audience reaction was a yawn.........Page 33

Russian roulette: Kenneth Mac-Millan's Anastasia may lack narrative thrust but it has brilliant choreography. The Royal Ballet doesn't quite do it justice...Page 34 Circle line: How Richard Eyre has defied the architecture of the National Theatre to turn his largest

auditorium, the Olivier, into the-

and a string quartet, founded a jazz orchestra, played solo piano - and has an Albert Hall premiere this month

ARTS

atre in the round......Page 35 Rising star: At 27 Paul Gladstone Reid has composed a rock opera

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

■ FILMS Geoff Brown reviews The People Vs. Larry Flynt, starring Woody Harrelson

BOOKS Laurence Norfolk on the end of empire: Peter Ackroyd on Edward Fitzgerald

FEATURES

Breaking point: The pressure on those who have to work, and on men in particular, has never been greater. And it can have tragic consequences.... Nigella Lawson: "It is astonishing the amount of excitement and agitation generated by apathy at the .. Page 19

STYLE

Wrap attack: Designers give summer frocks a new slant Page 18

MEDIA & MARKETING Brenda Maddox: Good soundbites are rarer than you think. A few little words blurted out by accident are a different matter Page 36 Brian MacArthur reports on how Tony Blair won the battle for the front page..

THE PAPERS While Tony Blair dines on fish and chips, John Major's advisers seem to think they've pulled off a coup if

they get him to roll up his shirtsleeves. If British voters are really so fond of the common touch. why was such an extraordinary person as Margaret Thatcher so popular? Mr Major seems to be squandering the prestige that belits his office. A few more weeks of this awkward posing, so embarrassing to behold, and voters will probably check off Tony Blair just for visual relief - The Wall Street Journal

WEDNESDAY APRIL 9 1997

from the Joint Council, Unemployment and the Future of Work, should undermine its own authority with policy prescriptions neither economically wise nor ethically courageous...

It is a pity that yesterday's report

TVLESTINGS --

Preview: How the pressures of work can lead to tragedy. Modern

Times (BBC2, 9pm). Review: Matthew Bond on a change of leading

man at Murder One .. Pages 46 47

Closed for business

Motes and beams

Spring has come to Washington but its process of government is in hibernation. Six months after reelection Bill Clinton holds power without a programme...... Page 21

Tinderbox Britain

For the third year running Britain faces water shortages and hosepipe bans. Are seven lean years settling . Page 21 over us?

sco pu dear o sansbi

COLUMNS

JOHN MAJOR

Since we were last told that this Government was about to lose an election, the average family has gained £1,100 more spending money a year after tax and inflation .

SIMON JENKINS

The more distant the taxer from the taxed, the faster taxes tend to rise, This means that by refusing to allow local tax discretion. Mr Blair will risk not one perjury but two. Local government did for Margaret Thatcher by seducing her into the community charge catastrophe. It has done for Mr Major by forcing him to put up central taxes. Who knows what horrors it has in store for Mr Blair?....

SIMON BARNES

Closure of Hickstead would be the flattening of the twin towers, the ploughing-up of Centre Court, the damming of the Thames at Temple Island. A chunk of national life would disappear..... Page 42

OBITUARIES SA

Professor Sir Malcolm Brown. geologist; Tomoyuki Tanaka, creator of Godzilla: Stuart Collins, district auditor Page 23

Letters.

Water resources: speech therapists: arts funding: choices in childbirth; Italy and AlbaniaPage 21

🂢 Sunny

△Cloudy

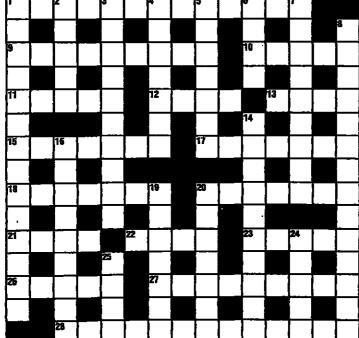
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- 1 It may save one cast beside fiery
- pit (6,7). 9 Girl's back, getting stuck into the bottle in local (9).
- 10 This capital Cockney pronounces bother (5). 11 Keats and Yeats did, but don't (5). 12 Avoid refuse collector (4).
- 13 Sulphur discharge cut reduced by half, for a start (4). 15 Type of Oriental letter set in metal
- 17 Set off, sharing trip (7). 18 Leader of team knocked in a
- 20 Domestic pet putting meat back. mostly (7). 21 Fire poet overlooking line (4). 22 Return of potentially shocking
- corruption (4). 23 Small amount of earth? Violet's turned in a small amount (5).

- 26 Remove Times before completion of puzzle (5).
- 27 Shun an interminable booze get away quickly (3,3,3). 28 Similar role e'd transformed in
- opera (7,6).
- 1 Play providing part on the boards (8,6).2 Score twice, since score went missing (5).
- 3 Watch line that's a feature of American parade (6,4). 4 It's used in bridge building, and is thus encased in tin (7).
- 5 Having a list of very rich? (7). 6 Painful account. borribly heartless (4), 7 Various tensions about Times
- following equal opportunities policy (3-6). 8 Not leaving after an argument, perhaps (14).
- 14 Star performer's right in depiction of boly Virgin Mary (5.5). 16 Keep out of club one golfers don?
- play with! (9). 19 More than one machine starts to develop electrical faults (7). 20 From which a drawer needs to
- pull out easily (7). 24 Some deliver socialism - the left 25 Doctor inexplicably disliked skin
- Times Two Crossword, page 48

(4).

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FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be dry with surrry spells at first, but cloud and patchy light rain will affect northern England and later North Wales. It should be quite warm in

most places. be dry with sunny spells after a band of cloud and light rain clears away to the south during the morning. Rain may reach northern Scotland later in

patchy drizzle. Wind light and variable. Max 16C (61F).

☐ Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: Cloud and patchy light rain clearing away, leaving a dry day with sunny spells. Wind light, northwesterly,

becoming moderate, westerly. Max

Scotland: Dry with sunny spells, but becoming cloudy later. Wind westerly, moderate, becoming fresh. Max 11C

be increasing from the west, bringing rain later. Wind fresh, westerly, becoming strong, southwesterly, Max

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Scotland and Northern Ireland will the day. Warm in most places, but ratures nearer average in the

☐ London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW Eng-land, S Wales: Dry, sunny periods.

Wind mainly light, easterly. Warm. Max 19C (66F). ☐ E England, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, NE England: Dry, bright or sunny intervals. Becoming more cloudy for a time, perhaps with some

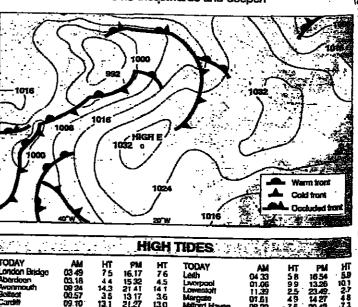
becoming moderate, westerly. Max 14C (57F). ☐ Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Argyti: Cloud clearing to leave surmy spells. Wind light, northwesterly,

☐ Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW

☐ Orkney, Shetland: Sunny spells and scattered showers. Cloud will

☐ Outlook: Dry, sunny spells. Ram in northern Scotland, perhaps extending

Overcast Rain Sunny showers Sleet and sunny showers 👺 Lightning Snow 13 Temperatur (Celsius) CALM Wind speed Sezi conditions Changes to chart below from noon: high E will move northeastwards and deepen



PM HT 16.17 76 15.32 45 21.41 14 1 13.17 36 21.27 130 20.21 5.6 13.13 58 13.43 45 13.52 54 14.51 3.6 14.51 42 12.27 60 20.34 94 20.27 97 20.42 74 PM 1654 1326 2349 1427 2093 1903 1903 1925 1325 1235 1759 1400 Dover Dutein (N Wall) Falmouth Grosnoek Hanwich Holyhead Hull (Albert D) Ilfracombo King's Lynn All times GMT Heights in metre HOURS OF DARKNESS Sun rises 6.18 am

London 7 47 pm to 6.16 pm Bristol 7.57 pm to 6.26 pm Edinburgh 8 07 pm to 6.20 pm Marchester 7.59 pm to 6.21 am Pentzonce 8 07 pm to 6 40 am First quarter April 14

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INSIDE SECTION **TODAY**

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ARTS

How theatre in the round came to the National **PAGES 33-35**



MEDIA

Brenda Maddox on voices that stop the waffle **PAGE 36, 37**



SPORT

Will Staines find streets of London paved with gold? **PAGES 42-48**

TELEVISION AND **RADIO PAGES** 46, 47

WEDNESDAY APRIL 9 1997

Profits overtake arch-rival

Tesco pulls clear of J Sainsbury

By Sarah Cunningham

TESCO notched up another victory over J Sainsbury in the battle of the superstores by overtaking it in group profits for the first time.

In the 12 months to February 22 pre-tax profits rose to £750 million from £685 million a year ago. Sainsbury's issued a profit warning in January, saying that its 1996-97 group profit will be between £640 million and £650 million.

The results drove Tesco's shares Il'2p higher to 364p and also dragged shares in rival superstore groups Asda and Saleway higher in their wake. Asda was up 412p to 112p and Safeway rose the same amount to 369p. Of the big four, only J Sainsbury displaced by Tesco from the top spots in market capitalisation, market share and now profits - saw its shares fall 5p

Tesco's like-for-like sales were 7.5 per cent higher during the year and 6 per cent higher in the first four weeks of this year. The current sector average is nearer 3 per cent.

The company noted a sharp fall in supermarket inflation, which has come down from 3.5 per cent last year to I per cent in recent weeks. The I per cent is mainly from petrol; some foodstuffs, particularly fresh



Tarmac weighs up suitors for Castle

By Paul Durman

TARMAC, Britain's largest construction group, is considering two offers for Castle Plant Services, its plant hire business. Neville Simms. Tarmac chief executive, said Castle will be sold if the price

Castle, which includes the plant hire business acquired as part of last year's asset swap with George Wimpey, has 560 employees and annual sales of £60 million. Robin Hardy, analyst with Panmure Gordon, suggested that it could be worth about £50

Tarmac is keen to reduce its borrowings, which, at £350.6 million, represent 45 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Tarmac yesterday reported annual pre-tax profits of EIO.5 million (£20.3 million) after £65 million of restructuring costs in the wake of the Wimpey deal. Operating profit from the continuing construction and building materials

businesses rose nearly 30 per cent, to £124 million, mainly because of operations acquired from Wimpey.

Annual savings from the re-organisation will be £38 million, nearly twice the original target. This helped to lift Tarmac shares 11p, to 115p.

Mr Simms said that the current year had begun well. and the outlook was more positive than for some time. He believed a Labour govern-ment might make it easier to secure funding for private finance initiative work.

Problems with the design business created from the former PSA Projects led Tarmac Professional Services to

lose £4.7 million. A 2.5p final dividend, due on June 20, keeps the total at 5.5p. just covered by earnings (before exceptional items) of the same amount, down from 7.5p

Tempus, page 28

produce, have seen dramatic price falls.

However, City worries about the fall in inflation were offset by reassurances about stable profit margins. Tesco continues to attack costs in the supply chain. It has already cut £20 million and is aiming

for £100 million savings.

Analysts either left their forecasts for the current year alone or edged them up to between £805 and £810 million.

Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, who retires as chairman in June, said market share rose from 13.7 per cent to 14.5 per cent in the year to December 1996, putting it 2 per cent ahead of J Sainsbury, still its nearest rival. He dismissed talk of a new

supermarket price war: "If anyone starts a price war now it will be very short term," he said. The petrol price war of last year, which has now ended, cost Tesco £35 million. Lord MacLaurin also dis-

missed speculation that Tesco may decide to bid for, or join a consortium to bid for, the Littlewoods chain of 135 high ceived the sales memorandum, but is "fully occupied" with recent acquisitions. Tesco bought Associated

British Foods's Irish food retailing businesses last month for £630 million. Lord Mac-Laurin said he expected the deal to receive European Commission approval in the next iew days and for Tesco to take control of the Irish stores at the end of this month.

Gearing at the year end was 19.3 per cent, but the ABF acquisition has since pushed this up to about 40 per cent.

Tesco is planning to invest £100 million in its central European business this year and about £15 million in Catteau. its French chain. It has al-ready added one French store this year and has plans to open a second large store in Budapest. In 1998 it aims to add a further six to eight stores

in Central Europe. Closer to home, the handover of Clubcard Plus, the Tesco loyalty card now held by 190,000 customers. from NatWest to Royal Bank of Scotland. Tesco's new personal finance partner, is under way. An enhanced version will be launched in the early summer, quickly followed by Tesco Personal Finance's first

major product, a credit card. Tesco expects to open 20 new stores in the UK in the coming year, equal to 600,000 square feet. A further 200,000 sq ft of selling space will be added through extensions.

Earnings per share were 23.5p (21.9p). A final dividend of 7.1p (6.65p), due on July 1. gives a total for the year of 10.35p (9.6p).

Big screen shoots a winner for Cassell

Pennington, page 27



Brian Ivory, chief executive of Highland Distilleries, celebrates a 12 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax profits to £25 million and a dividend of 2.1p Tempus, page 28

be made soon

bondholders, who lost £275 million in the 1995 crash, can expect to hear details shortly f a compensation offer.

established that complex negotiations, brokered by the ity Disputes Panel, are nearly complete, with a number of parries contributing to the settlement. Any deal will need court approval.

Those in line for the payout include many elderly inves-

holders. Investors in the 1994 issue should fare better than the others because the money was lent onto one of the companies in the Barings securities arm that is still trading. Their payout will not cover the full amount lost. The 1994 Bondholders will

per cent of the original investreceive nothing.

Freeman to rejoin Salomon from EBRD

BY OLIVER AUGUST

RON FREEMAN, vice-president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), resigned yesterday to take up a high-profile position at Salomon Brothers in London.

The respected Wall Street banker is returning to his former employers as the most senior executive in charge of European investment opera-tions. He will report directly to Deryck Maughan, the executive chairman in New York, bypassing Peter Middleton, the chief executive in London.

Mr Freeman spent 18 years at Salomon before being recruited in 1991 by Jacques Attali, the EBRD's founding president. M Attali left the bank in 1993, his reputation crushed by controversy over big spending at the EBRD's lavish London headquarters.

The search for a successor to Mr Freeman remained shrouded in mystery after the preferred candidate first withdrew his name only to throw his hat back in the ring last night. The candidate, who would be responsible for the EBRD's £2 billion per annum investment activities in Eastern Europe. was expected to be proposed to the board yesterday.

The appointment, originally end's annual meeting London, has been overshadowed by an internal dispute over the nationality of Mr Freeman's successor, According to a verbal agreement between the bank's 57 member countries, the first vice-president should be American. But Belgian bank employees are campaigning against the agreement in a bid to have one

of their own appointed to Mr Freeman's position. The EBRD yesterday denied that the delay was directly related to internal wranglings.

It said: "The process is under way to choose a successor. A candidate will be submitted to the EBRD's board of directors as soon as possible."

The Halifax offers float share choices

HALIFAX Building Society has given details of the dealing service that it will offer the eight million customers who will receive shares when it makes its £10 billion stock market debut in the

Investors who decide to keep their shares will be able to hold them in a new Halifax "shareholder account", put them in a single company Halifax personal equity plan, or ask for a share certificate.

Those who decide to sell will be able to do so free of charge for a certhe Halifax's share-dealing service

The shares are expected to be worth an average of £1,300 per member. If the Halifax follows a similar pattern as the Abbey National, about a quarter of shareholders will sell in the first few months after the flotation.

BUSINESS TODAY

SSS DOLLAR

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun) \$18.10 (\$18.00) GOLD London close..... \$348.45 (\$349.30)

denotes midday frading price Lloyd's move Commercial Union has

become the first big British composite insurer to become an active participant in the Lloyd's of London insurance market by taking a half share of the Marlborough Underwriting Agency.

Page 26, Tempus 28

£lbn claim

Shareholders in Sumitomo have launched a El billion damages claim against five executives for failing to prevent huge losses on copper trading. Page 30

Barings offer to

BY ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of Barings

Inquiries by The Times have

tors who bought into one or more of the three bond and loan note issues, attracted by high interest rates. Others to receive compensation payments are expected to be the large life and pension funds, such as Legal & General and Scottish Amicable.

The investors are split into three categories: those who invested in the first \$150 million note issued in 1986, followed by a second \$150 million note, issued in 1994, and the 1994 Perpetual Bond-

not receive anything like the full amount invested and the sum is likely to be nearer 25 ment. The Barings preference shareholders, however, will

The main contributors to the settlement, which will fall far short of the total lost, are believed to be the parties, and their insurers, which are being pursued through the law courts. These include Caze-nove, BZW, part of Barclays, Hoare Govers, the broking arm of ABN Amro, the Dutch bank, and Coopers & Lybrand tors to the Barings group.



Fires, shown are one way, exclusive of tax. Subject to availability





Field of romance: Colin Firth and Ruth Gemmell, stars of Fever Pitch

SALES of Fever Pitch, the novel by Nick Hornby about a football fan. have increased fivefold since the release of the film version, starring Colin Firth, according to Cassell, the

independent publishing company. Fever Pitch, Hornby's first book. published by Cassell in 1992, is back in the the top ten paperback non-fiction list. High Fidelity. Hornby's second novel, is still in the top ten paperback fiction list after 48 weeks.

Homby's next book is not expected to be published until 1998 and now Cassell is searching for another unknown author destined for the bestseller list. "Our success has been spotting a book, a trend, an author, By Morag Preston

and bringing them to the market," said Philip Sturrock, chairman of Cassell, who acquired the company in a management buy-in from CBS, the US broadcaster, in 1986 and brought it to market eight years later. Last year's launch of The Lost Gardens of Heligan, currently top of the non-fiction bestsellers list, helped to establish Cassell as a profitable niche player, in spite of discount pressures from publishing conglomerates since the breakdown of the Net Book Agreement. Since the sale of the Victor Gollancz children's list for £870.000 to Penguin last year. Cassell has concentrated on its general publishing. academic and religious divisions. Projects for this year include a CD-Rom of the latest edition of the Cassell Concise English Dictionary, a new cookery book by Mrs Beeton.

Yesterday, Cassell reported 1996 pretax profits of down at £712,000 (£736,000). However, 1995 were boosted by two exceptional credits totalling more than El million. Sales rose 10 per cent, to £24.4 million, giving rise to an operating profit of £1.15 million, against losses of £43,000 previously. Earnings were 8.6p a share, down from 8.9p last time. The final dividend is held at 30 a share, leaving the total unchanged at 4.5p. The shares rose 64p to 914p yesterday.

CU takes stake in Lloyd's manager

By Marianne Curphey, insurance correspondent

the first big UK composite insurer to become an active participant in Lloyd's of London by paying £2.9 million for half of Marlborough Underwriting Agency Ltd

The deal, which had been under negotiation since January, gives CU access to three syndicates managed by MUAL. It also enriches the agent's eight partners. Known collectively as the Blenheim Partnership, they will share in the £2.9 million cash payment.

CU will acquire 51 per cent of MUAL, with an option to buy the remainder in five years. In the interim, the 49 per cent stake will be held by the Blenheim Partnership,

Bank chief warning on EMU

By Alasdair Murray

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday issued a warning that moving towards a single currency without adhering to the Maastricht criteria could lead to economic weakness and high unemployment in Europe.

Mr George, who was speaking at the Gulf Economic Forum in Bahrain, said the introduction of a single interest rate with EMU could prove to be inappropriate to the needs

of different countries. He added that he did not see the single currency as a necessary complement to single market, although he conceded that a single exchange rate would bring benefits.

COMMERCIAL UNION is which will be seeking further underwriters to join the grouping in this period to expand the business, which has a capacity of £80 million at present. Angus Sladen, managing director of MUAL, said: We have not yet decided how the cash will be distributed, but the partners will be the main beneficiaries. However.

I am 46 and I have no plans to retire. I intend to build this business up.
"By the end of five years if CU exercises its option we hope to have a bigger cake.

which others can share in." MUAL manages Syndicates 62 and 744 that write marine business, and 1047, which specialises in professional in-

demnity business. Analysts said that the deal would have a minimal effect on CU's balance sheet. Shares fell 64 p to 6464 p.

CU said the business would be developed and managed independently from its other London market operations. Cees Schrauwers, manag-

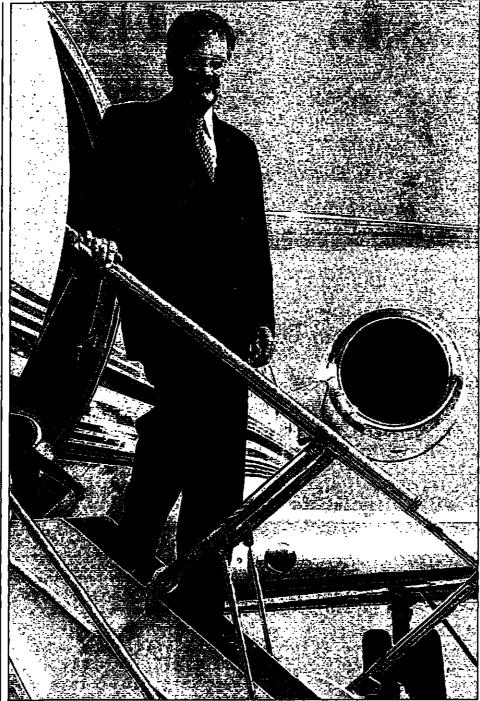
ing director of CU's UK Non-Life operation, said: "We believe that the London market will continue to be of vital importance within the world's insurance markets. The recent reforms allow us to participate in Lloyd's."

CU said that MUAL's 1992, 1993, and 1994 results were profitable, and satisfactory re-sults were forecast for the 1995 account.

Sir David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, welcomed the purchase, saying it represent-ed a significant vote of confidence in the future of Lloyd's and in the wider London market.

The Association of Lloyd's Members said that the deal signalled another shift in the ownership and control of Lloyd's business and, arguably, further eroded the rights of Lloyd's traditional names.

Tempus, page 28



Aerospace Corporation, leaving the world's fastest long-range executive jet after it arrived yesterday at Stansted, from Los Angeles, in the record-breaking time of nine hours and 13 minutes, well ahead of regular commercial flights (Jon Ashworth writes). The \$35 million Gulfstream V (GV) is on a week-long round-theworld flag-waving tour. Mr Moss flies on today

By Eric Reguly

CELLNET, the mobile phone

company controlled by British

Telecom, has agreed to invest

up to £57 million in The Link, the high street retailer owned

The investment was des-

cribed as a "strategic alliance"

by Dixons.

to Hong Kong, en route to Beijing, Tokyo and New York. There are now 70 firm orders for the GV, which competes with the Bombardier Global Express, now undergoing flight testing. The aircraft averaged Mach 0.85 to Mach 0.87 on the UK leg of its tour, cruising at 45,000ft, and landed with four hours' fuel to spare. Gulfstream is controlled by Theodore "Teddy" Forstmann, the Wall Street corporate raider.

Cellnet to invest £57m in The Link

and will lead to the develop-

ment of new telecoms prod-

ucts. It is expected to create 750

jobs over the next three years

by expanding The Link from

its current 87 branches to more

40 per cent stake in The Link

and will contribute another £32

Cellnet paid £25 million for a

Millions in freight grants left unused

MILLIONS of pounds set aside by the Government to encourage companies to use more environmentally-friendly forms of transport have not been distributed. Between 1985 and 1996, £70 million was supposed to be handed out by the Department of Transport under the freight facilities grant scheme.

The scheme, introduced in 1974, encourages companies to move freight by rail or inland waterway, rather than road. The grants are payable to-wards the capital cost of facilities and equipment, such as freight terminals.

However, just £32 million of the budgeted £70 million was paid out between 1985 and 1996. Much of the surplus money has been spent elsewhere in the department

The amount of freight transferred annually from road to rail in that period dropped by about 38 per cent, while the amount of road freight increased steadily.

Yesterday, the Parliamentary Committee of Public Accounts said: "The department of Transport| could have done more to promote the scheme to prospective applicants."

Robert Sheldon, the committee chairman, said he was astonished that, before 1994, no account was taken of any reduction in congestion.

The MPs also said the criteria for eligibility may be too demanding. Applicants are required to provide tenyear traffic forecasts. In a sample period between 1992 and 1995, only nine per cent were successful.

A CBI spokeswoman said: The Department of Transport hasn't promoted the grants eff-ectively. It also takes a long time to process them, which puts off

fixed and mobile phones.

phone connections, faxes, pag-

In the year to April 1996,

The Link reported a pre-tax loss of £2.9 million on turn-

over of £21 million. Dixons

expects The Link to make a

profit this financial year.

ers and personal organisers.

BUSINESS HOUNDUR

Central banks sign supervision pact

CENTRAL BANK watchdogs from the world's leading economies yesterday signed up to a new 25-point plan that is intended to strengthen international supervision and to improve cross-border co-operation. Under the auspices of the Basle Committee on Banking Supervision, and with the endorsement of the central bank governors of the Group of Ten countries, the basic Basle principles will cover areas such as how to measure risk in different

The Basle plan, which is also backed by 15 emerging market countries, is intended to establish a framework within which bank regulators can collect, review and analyse prudential reports and statistical returns. This is not just in a domestic context, but also within the international banking system. The new bank principles also set out how supervisors "must require the local operations of foreign banks to be conducted to the same high standards as are required of domestic institutions". The principles add: "They must have powers to share information needed by the home country supervisors of those banks for the purpose of carrying out consolidated supervision." A spokesman for the Bank of England said yesterday: "We welcome the Basle announcement as a major contribution to improving supervisory standards worldwide."

Vymura payout rises

VYMURA, the wallcovering manufacturer, raised pre-tax profits from £2.4 million to £4.4 million in the year to December 31 on sales up 17 per cent to £43.8 million. Total dividends rise from 4.7p to 5.0p after a rise in the final from 3.1p to 3.4p. Earnings rise from 7.10p to 11.9p. The company managed to reduce gearing from 40 per cent to zero during the year. First-quarter sales, however, are running slightly below the level's of 1996 although the group says cost reductions made last year are helping profit margins. The shares rose ip to 1812p.

Frederick Cooper slips

FREDERICK COOPER, the specialist coatings, housewares and architectural hardware group, is maintaining the interim dividend at 0.85p a share after suffering a fall in pretax profits to £776,000 in the half-year to the end of January. down from the £1.7 million made last time. Profits were affected by a £1.1 million goodwill charge arising from a disposal. Earnings fell 0.1p a share, from 2.3p previously. Ed Kirk, chairman, said that the company remained concerned about the current strength of sterling, which adversely affected the profitability of exports.

Royal Bank move in US

CITIZENS FINANCIAL GROUP, US subsidiary of the Royal Bank of Scotland, is to buy a bank in Connecticut for \$57 million. Citizens is expected to complete the cash purchase of Bank of New Haven from BNH Bancshares, a holding company, in late summer. Last year, Bank of New Haven made a pre-tax profit of \$2.1 million, up from \$777,000 in 1995. Royal Bank, which owns 76.5 per cent of Citizens, the rest being held by Bank of Ireland, said the deal is a logical extension of existing business in Connecticut.

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Biocompatibles buy

BIOCOMPATTBLES International, the medical coatings company, is issuing £7.44 million of shares and paying \$10,000 (£6,100) in cash to acquire rights to Surfacine, a coating that kills a wide range of bacteria. The consideration will give Biocompatibles ownership of BioPolymerix, an American company, under a deal agreed in principle two weeks ago. Shares in Biocompatibles continued their strong run yesterday, rising 45p to £12.57½ — 87½p above notional price of the shares issued for BioPolymerix.

Oasis shows growth

OASIS, the women's fashion retailer, is planning to continue its expansion in the UK, Ireland and Germany after a 42 per cent rise in profits last year. In the 12 months to January 25. pre-tax profit was £15.6 million compared with £11 million a year earlier. Like-for-like sales rose 12.5 per cent last year. The number of stores increased from 82 to 108 and a further five opened in March. Earnings per share rose from 14.02p to 19.51p. A final dividend of 4.9p, to be paid on June 24, makes a total 7p (3.33p). The shares were 12p higher at 39812p.

IBC advances 10%

IBC, the conferences and publishing group, lifted pre-tax profits 10 per cent, to £13.7 million, in 1996, helped by strong demand for its industry information services. Earnings were demand for its industry information services. Earnings were 27.8p (25.1p) a share. A final dividend of 6p, due on May 30, lifts the total to 9.3p (8p). The strength of sterling shaved £500,000 from profits. IBC said. The company said that it could spend up to £35 million in acquisitions this year, probably in the publishing sector. Operating cashflow advanced 43 per cent, to £16.4 million during the period.

QS reduces losses

QS HOLDINGS, the clothing retailer, reduced pre-tax losses to £148,000, from £702,000, in the 52 weeks to January 25, but the company is again passing the payment of a final dividend. Turnover improved to £59.2 million, from £54.4 million, with a 7.3 per cent rise in like-for-like sales in the second half. The company ended the year with net cash of £1.5 million, compared with debts of £438,000 at the end of the previous year. The loss per share were 0.300 (1.53e lend). There previous year. The loss per share was 0.39p (1.53p loss). There was no interim dividend (1.56p previously).

Venture fund gains

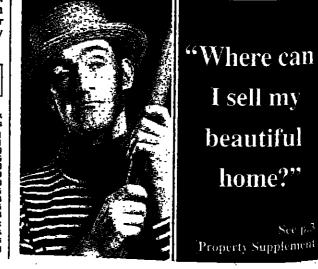
THE net asset value of Thompson Clive Investments, the venture capital fund, increased by 16.6 per cent to 402.5p in 1996. The return on ordinary activities, including unrealised investment gains, totalled £8.56 million (£14.93 million) before tax. Revenue before tax totalled £866,000 (£415,000). New investments included a UK opto-electronics company and a US firm providing products and services for Internet access. Earnings per share rose from 2.3p to 4.8p. A dividend of 3.8p (3.8p) is due to be paid on June 5.

I sell my

beautiful

home?"

Property Supplement



THE SUNDAY TIMES

YOUR CHANCE TO MEET JOHN MAJOR



chance to tell John Major what you think about his government. You can also ask him what he would do with five more years in power. This is a unique opportunity for readers of The Times and The Sunday Times to have a say in the general election campaign with the most powerful man in the country

Next Tuesday is your

The Prime Minister will speak for about 20 minutes before answering questions from the audience. The event, to be held in central London on Tuesday, April 15, will take place between 8pm amd 9.30pm

Tickets, which must be booked in advance, are £10 each (£7.50 for students, pensioners and unemployed). To book your tickets simply telephone First Cail on 0171-420 0000. Lines are open 24 hours. There is no booking fee. All major credit and payment cards are accepted

Report on gas from **MMC** nears completion

million, depending on certain

performance targets being

reached. They relate largely to

the number of Cellnet custom-

ers recruited by The Link over

the next five years.

John Clare, Dixons' chief exe-

cutive, said the Cellnet invest-

ment will accelerate The Link's

expansion. The chain was

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE Monopolies and Merg-ers Commission report that will determine whether BG. the former British Gas, must forfeit up to £650 million in revenues is on course for completion on Monday in spite of yesterday's lastminute appearance at the MMC by the gas regulator.
The MMC must seek a

postponement from Ofgas, the gas watchdog, if it wants to delay the report, but it has not yet sought one. The calling to the commission of Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, fuelled speculation that the report may lavour BG rather than the regulator.

The row between Ofgas and BG is over price curbs planned by the regulator for Transco, the monopoly pipeline business, with the valuation of the network a crucial

factor in the dispute.

Ms Spottiswoode had demanded reductions in the prices that Transco charges the users of its network, including the demerged domes-tic half of the old British Gas, Centrica, of 20 per cent next year and thereafter by 2.5 per cent less than the retail prices index for four years. Although the regulator modified earlier proposals, BG argued that the cuts would mean the loss of thousands of jobs and were based on an unfair valuation of assets.

Once the report is complete it will be sent to the regulator who must then pass on copies to the President of the Board of Trade and BG.

Victory puts back launch of Virgin Clothing

VICTORY CORPORATION

is to delay the launch of its new Virgin-backed casual clothing business by six months. The business, which is now called the Virgin Clothing Company rather than Virgin Jeans, will be launched in the autumn rather than the street of 1008 er than the spring of 1998. Victory, which floated on

AIM last year, said yesterday that the launch had been put back because it wants to offer a wider range of products. Men's shoes and accessories are being added to the jeans and casual clothes already included in the range, which will be sold through several clothing retailers.

A spokesman said that financial projections for the next six months will be hit by the delay, but a quick recovery is expected after the launch. No profit is expected until the year 2000.

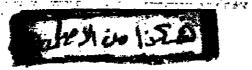
Shares in Victory, which came to the market at 58p amid a flurry of excitement over the involvement of Richard Branson, the Virgin boss, have since fallen back to a low of 48p. Yesterday they rallied lp to close at 49p.
Virgin owns 10.6 per cent of

Victory Corporation and, sep-arately, 50 per cent of the Virgin Clothing Company and 30 per cent of Virgin Virgin Cosmetics is still

expecting to launch at the end of this year. Its first retail site, in south London, has been secured and it hopes for another three or four by

TOU	RIST	RAT	ES

}	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Benk Buys	Bar Sel
Austria S Austria Sch Beigkum Fr Canada \$ Dermark Kr Finland Mikk	2.18 20.52 60.42 2.368 0.862 11.15 6.82	2.02 19.02 55.92 2.198 0.802 10.35 8,14	Neiherida Gid New Zeeland 5 Norwey Kr Portugel Esc S Africe Rd Soain Pta	0.658 3.291 2.51 11.85 290.50 7.79 245.60	0.60 3.04 2.2 11.0 270.5 6.9 228.5
France Fr	9.80 2.34 453 13.32 120 1.09 5.78 2882 218 60	9,10 2,72 427 12,22 100 1,01 5,13 2892 202,90	Sweden Kr Switzerland Pr Turkey Line USA 5	13.25 2.51 216705 1.723 asil denomin polled by Ba also apply k	12.2 2.3 20270 1.59 ation ben roleys Ben o traveller



☐ Still doubts over supermarkets' recovery ☐ Advisers' plans for financial services ☐ Halifax's little extra help

☐ THE supermarkets are the country's biggest and most profitable cartel. Before a thousand lawyers reach greedily for their winter holiday brochures, it their winter holiday brochures, it is ar. entirely legal cartel, and one that has fallen apart under competitive pressure before and will do so again.

A cartel is defined as a union to control prices. Illegal cartels meet in smoke-filled rooms. Legal ones such as the super-

gal ones, such as the super-markets, employ staff to visit each other's branches and check on prices, and then adust theirs

accordingly. The effect, one might think, is the same.

The opposite of a cartel is a price war. Verdict, the retail consultancy, upset an already nervous stock market in January by predicting two or three more years of price wars from the supermarkets. The grocers themselves were worrying about an inexplicable fall in sales in the first few weeks of this year. There have been signs of a recovery since, with shares edging up again even before annual figures from Tesco, the market leader still, that came in a month ahead

i rise.

The Contraction

of the rest of the big three. Lord MacLaurin, the chairman, made two significant comments. The chances of another prolonged price war breaking out were not great. Tesco's leadership in loyalty schemes, those bonus cards offering de-

Store Wars: special edition layed discounts on future pur-chases, was unassailable, always

provided these were marketed

These two remarks should be preserved in a cool, dark place, and could provide useful examples a few years hence of cor-porate hubris. Tesco sales grew by 6 per cent in real terms in the few weeks since its February 22 year-end, double the market average. Impressive, even if that average itself suggests a recovery across the sector from conditions earlier this year. Extrapolating from industry data, Tesco also says its market share had grown from 14.2 per cent last June to 14.5 per cent.

The shares rose, as analysts marked this year's profits esti-mates ahead. Shares in Safeway and Asda, this last seen as having lagged behind the rest, rose too; Sainsbury fell, on the grounds that Tesco's market share gains must have come from somewhere, and the company has become a convenient

whipping boy.
The argument is that with food price inflation running at next to nothing, and the price of im-

ported goods falling sharply because of the strong pound, there is no scope for sales to rise naturally. The sensible option is to improve margins, and this means avoiding a price war. Splendid reasoning, but only if

the cartel holds together, and there have been signs some smaller grocers are already cut-ting the price of commodity foodstuffs. Even legal cartels do not always behave sensibly. Those analysts busy marking up forecasts yesterday were noticeably unwilling to translate this into formal buy notes. The food retailing sector could be in for a few more shocks yet.

Passing the regulatory parcel

LABOUR'S once-radical plans for City regulation now seem to have shrunk to a short Bill enabling the next chairman of the Securities and Investments Board to take over the rest of the known regulatory world, should he or she wish to do so. This is beginning to look inadequate.

Many now agree that a struc-



ture seating the SIB over second tier regulators is a better recipe for passing the parcel, and the blame, than for decisive action. The SIB's relations with the struggling Personal Investment Authority are particularly

frustrating for consumers.
Fiddling around with structure again is not, however, likely to achieve much gain. Changing the Prescription, a manifesto being sent by the Independent Financial Advisers Association to election candidates, urges a more functional reform of what regulation of retail financial services is aiming to achieve.
Gary Heath, the Association's chief executive, alleges that the vast cash and administrative cost

of regulation is not earning

faith in the industry's products. He argues that more products need to be brought into the net if customers are to understand and have faith in regulation. To that end, the IFAs suggest a

general distinction between insurance products covering the person and insurance covering things or services. All the former should come under retail finan-cial regulation, but not the rest. Ministers will be tempted to out off any such reform until the EU gets round to its insurance directive in the next millennium.

This could be a big mistake.

The top priority is long-term care plans, the most likely source of a new scandal. Government plans to regulate them were forestalled by the election but even if a Labour government gave them less encouragement, this growing market needs more consumer protection.

Meanwhile, the IFAs argue

that directors of big pension, insurance and fund management groups should be person-ally liable for misconduct by their company. Since individual IFAs have found themselves at

the sharp end of regulation, this insight suggests that personalising blame is one element in regulation that works.

Shares can go up as well as down

☐ THE Halifax has moved with customary efficiency to ensure the best of both worlds for its members. Those who want to stay in after this summer's flotation are offered an easy method, without any fiddling around with easily lost share certificates. Others are offered a free sale, a revolving door that carries them into share ownership and out again immediately, clutching the cash.

Admirable — except that most members should delay taking such an easy exit. The Halifax is right to offer one, so long as it is not sold too hard. There will always be a minority who want nothing to do with the stock market, through ideological conviction or the sheer terror of owning shares and watching the value of their investment rise and fall each day. Market research by MORI, on behalf of the Halifax, suggests only a small proportion of the eight million members, less than one in ten, may want to sell, but even a million people selling in the week or so after flotation creates a

huge logistical problem.

Instead, their shares will be bundled up for City institutions that would otherwise have to hunt around on the market for shares — and, heaven forbid, pay over the odds for them.

It must be said, and it will be said many times in the next few weeks, that too early an exit from the Halifax may deprive inves-tors of significant later gains, as index-tracking institutions, for example, look to top up their holdings by the year end. Think of it as a wealth warning: the value of your Halifax shares can go up as well as down.

Fever pitch

☐ AN analysis of football transfer fees by Bill Gerrard and Steve Dobson, given to the Scottish Economics Society, finds that panic buying by chubs in the relegation zone puts a premium of up to 28 per cent on prices at the spring transfer deadline. Many clubs recently floated to raise cash are in danger of relegation. No doubt it makes perfect sense for investors to pay

RJB optimistic on prospects after reaching £189m

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

RJB MINING, Britain's biggest coal producer, yesterday brushed aside fears for the long-term future of UK coal with optimism pinned on a new government's energy poli-cy and the company's ability to boost efficiency.

As the company, formed from the bulk of British Coal's English and Welsh collieries, announced a 9 per cent rise in pre-tax profits. Richard Budge, chief executive, said

Lasmo share price

By Carl Mortished

LASMO, the oil exploration apparently visible from the

new government from either RJB Mining's pre-tax in of the main parties would establish an energy policy that

would ensure a role for coal. Mr Budge said that it was important for jobs in Nottinghamshire and other mining areas that British coal was not sidelined in favour of gas or of coal from overseas. He said: "This country will need a longterm coal business. Without a UK coal industry, we would become over-dependent on gas."

moon." The well showed a

flow rate of 17.7 million

cubic feet per day and the

company reckons it could

flow at 60 million cubic feet

per day. Lasmo will do a

comprehensive seismic sur-

vey this year followed by a

programme.
The field is located in the

Kirthar concession of which

Lasmo has 47.5 per cent with

Lasmo has an equivalent

generation project.

drilling

sustained

Cost reductions across the business, including this year's In the year to December 31, pay freeze on higher-paid staff, remained fundamental,

Mr Budge said. Pakistan gas find The final dividend, due on May 23, is set at 12p, making a total for the year of 20p, up 25 per cent on 1995. fuels increase in

RJB Mining has confounded many critics with its profits since the sale of British Coal, but it faces increasing market pressures. Electricity generation is increasingly turning to gas, and world coal prices are falling, exacerbated for UK coal by the strength of

creased 9.3 per cent, to £189.2

million, although sales fell 10.5

per cent, to £1.3 billion. The

company was hit by deepen-

ing losses at its Asfordby pit, which was £19.9 million in the red, against £16.3 million the

previous year. Mr Budge said

that the pit, where production

methods have been changed,

would break even this year.

sterling.
Crucially, RJB also faces renegotiation of contracts with the generators after the expiry next year of long-term arrangements set in place by the Government when it sold British Coal. Mr Budge said that this week's deal with National Power for development of a clean coal power station underlined the future

for UK coal. Talks with the generators are under way now to replace contracts that will end next March, and both sides are talking up the strength of their position.

interest in the adjacent These are the first talks Kirthar West concession and involving a privatised elec-tricity industry that has no commitment to buy British this year acquired Bela North and South, two concessions nearby. The country suffers an energy shortage and gas from the Bhit field could be linked to Pakistan's main gas coal, although it is logistically tied to taking substantial amounts because of the proxpipeline 65 kilometres away, imity of power stations and coalfields. Mr Budge said that no contracts had been or be linked to an electricity



Simon Keeble, finance director, and Nicky Foulston reported a jump in pre-tax profit

Brands Hatch in 'pop' talks

By Fraser Nelson

BRANDS HATCH, the motor racing circuit owner that is transforming its courses into multipurpose theme parks, is poised to stage the first pop concert in its 70-year history.

Nicola Foulston, chief executive, is in talks with Jamiroquai, the acid jazz band, with a view to staging a concert at the 120,000-capacity Brands Hatch course. If it goes ahead, the event is expected to bring in about £300,000 in profit and will mark the course as one of the

country's largest pop venues.

Miss Foulston, who at 29 is the youngest chief executive of any listed company, said if the event was to go ahead, it would have to be payable on July 9.

worth considerably more than the £100,000 typically received by Wembley Stadium. Miss Foulston met Jay Kay, Jamiroquai's lead singer, when he used the course for a photo

The foray into pop concerts is part of the company's ongoing commercialisation pro-gramme, including the construction of conference centres and corporate entertainment.

The company returned pre-tax profits of £2.12 million (£1.14 million) for 1996, in line with its prospectus forecast. Earnings were 19.1p a share, and a maiden dividend of 0.5p is

Unions' bank prepares to offer low-cost pension plans

By Graham Searjeant, Financial editor

UNITY TRUST BANK, the financial services group controlled by trade unions, is planning to set up low-cost second-tier pension schemes and may compete in retail banking services after emerging from a tough period of consolidation after the recession. Sir Dennis Landau, chair-

man, said that both Labour and Conservative plans for pensions were inadequate. "Neither party is brave enough to call for compulsory secondary pensions," he said. Merely converting a 5 per cent rebate of contributions from the state earnings-related penion scheme would not be enough, he argued.

Unity made a record profit of £1.28 million in 1996, up from £541,000 in 1995. Its trade union and Co-operative shareholders will share a £109,000 dividend, the first since 1986, shortly after the bank was set up.

Most of the improvement came from cutting start-up losses on joint ventures with Colonial, the Australian insurance group that is, ironically, about to shed mutual status. These include Jacques Martin Unity, which is developing industry-wide pension schemes for those not in company plans.

Unity has cut its customer loan book from £45 million in 1994 to £35 million, as it restricted new loans to creditworthy existing customers. New bad debt provisions fell to £500,000. Gordon Beesley, managing director, confirmed that none of the trade unions that made temporary borrow-

ings had defaulted. Unity has put on 1,000 new customers among charities and other social economy bod-ies. It now hopes to back new inner-city regeneration pro-jects and more housing association developments. Any move into retail financial services will be designed to minimise

overheads, probably concentrating on telephone banking and shared cash machines.

Sir Dennis, formerly chief executive of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, also dismissed the possibility of a hostile bid from Andrew Regan's Lanica Trust for the Co-op. "The whole thing is a nonsense," he said. There was therefore no reason for Lanica shares to stay suspended on the Stock Exchange, he added.

Dewhirst confident of progress

By George Sivell

DEWHIRST GROUP, the clothing manufacturer, raised pre-tax profits from £22.3 million to £26.4 million in the year to January 17 on sales up from £278 million to £316 million.

Earnings rose from 11.61p to 13.61p, allowing total dividends for the year to increase from 3.60p to 4.35p. The group's cash pile rises by £3.7 million to £26 million although capital expenditure is expected to rise from last year's £13.8 million. The shares

rose 5p to 176½p.

Profits from clothing rose from £19.6 million to £23.6 million on sales up from E250 million to E288 million. Profits from toiletries rose from £2.24 million to £2.29 million on sales down from £29.2 million to £27.9 million.

Dewhirst says: "The group has had an excellent start to the year. We look forward confidently to continuing the group's

Shell owning an equivalent implications for Lasmo's net stake but the Pakistani Govworth. Richard Savage, anaernment can acquire up to lyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, believes the field 20 per cent of the field. could be worth 10-15p per share. "This is brilliant news for Lasmo. The field represents about 18 per cent of its reserve base or 180 per cent of

group, has made an impor-

tant gas discovery in Paki-stan. Initial estimates from

the Bhit-2 well suggest the

field, located in Western

Sindh could contain up to

two trillion cubic feet of gas,

equivalent to almost a fifth

of Lasmo's existing oil and

Shares in the oil company

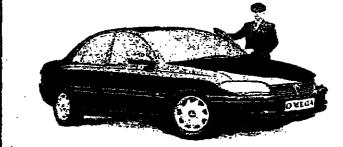
jumped lip to 234p yesterday

as the market assessed the

estimated 1997 production." The Bhit-2 well was drilled without seismic data, A spokesman for Lasmo said: We drilled the well on the basis of a surface geological feature — a big dome which is

gas reserves.

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Sterling's strength dents shares of British Steel

THE strong pound continued to cast a shadow yesterday. with British Steel the latest to have the shine wiped off shares as analysts downgraded expectations.

Its recent run was checked as analysts at Merrill Lynch and HSBC James Capel revised their figures to take account of currency fluctuations. Capel has moved from buy to hold, chopping 1997-98 forecasts from £320 million to £200 million. Shares in British Steel fell 7p to 15212p as nearly two million changed hands.

Dealers reported a switch of focus from international companies exposed to currency changes towards domestic stocks. Overall, however, the markets lacked strong momentum, with shares at their best putting on eight points, while mid-afternoon jitters as Wall Street opened lower knocked the index back 12 points. At the close the FT-SE 100 was off 2.4 points at 4,269.3. on volumes of 700

million. The strength of the US dollar lifted some companies. ICI added 6p to 72012p, Reed International fell back from earlier gains to end at Ell. 2712, up 312p, while BAT was 512p

higher at 522 2p.
P&O was 11 2p higher at 629p after settlement of its dispute over port charges in Florida, while Hanson progressed, up 912p to 290p.

Tesco, confirming its top slot in the supermarket sector with a 10 per cent rise in profits to £750 million, had some of its thunder stolen by Asda. Tesco rose 1112p to 364p. although the figures were in line with expectations, while Asda rose 412p to 112p, with institutional buying on volume of more than 27 million.

J Sainsbury was left out of the party, dipping 5p to 328p after talk of a chunk of shares being placed at 326p, while Safeway, the current sector favourite, rose 412p to 369p.

Fashion retailers were brighter, led by Oasis reporting a 42 per cent rise in profits. Its shares rose 12p to 39812p as the current year to around £19 million. Next followed, adding 4¹2p to 622p, and French Connection hit a new high, climbing 21 2p to 342 2p.

Moss Bros added 712p to £14.05 on further consideration of Monday's strong results, while Laura Ashley was in demand again and picked itself up to add 13p to



Tom Smail, left, and Jim Perrie, of Vymura, lp higher

Elsewhere, AIM-quoted Wedderburn returned after suspen-

sion and its recent takeover deal to advance 6p, to 30p.

14412p.Among other retailers DPS, the furniture group. sagged 19p to 52112p, reflecting, say dealers, an uninspiring sector. Dixons fell 10p to 53712p after selling a 40 per cent stake in The Link, its chain of retail phone shops, to

RJB Mining was in demand again after reporting a 9

61712p. Sibir Energy, a new issue, climbed to a 512p premium on its 10p offer price on its first day of trading on AIM. Vymura, the wallpaper group, pasted up an 82 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £4.3 million. Tom Smail, chief

a new find in the North Sea,

but ended 2'2p lower at

executive, and Jim Perrie,

finance director, reported enper cent rise in profits to £189.2 Bid talk in the property sector helped MEPC edge 612 p higher, to 466p, while Rowlinson Securities, a rather smaller fish in the market, leapt 65p to 267'2p after disclosing a bid approach.

million, ahead of City expectations. Shares in the group rose 7p to 39712p.

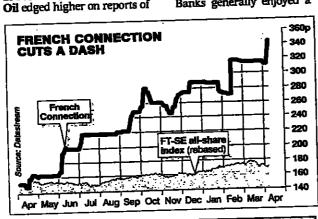
Oils were helped by the firming price of Brent crude and news of new finds buoying exploration groups.

Lasmo topped the FT-SE 100 ranking with a near 5 per cent rise, adding 11p to 234p after announcing a new discovery in Pakistan, while Enterprise

couraging signs of recovery in the UK market, helping shares to add a penny to 18112p.

Better than expected profits from Tarmac and a cautiously optimistic view on prospects saw an lip rise to lisp, up li per cent on the day. RMC. reporting year-end results tomorrow, saw its shares dip 1112p to 97412p.

Banks generally enjoyed a



recommendations. Bardays added 1112p to £10.6412, while Royal Bank of Scotland, which provides financial services for Tesco, was up 61 ap to

Biotech shares eased on profit-taking. Tepnel Life fell 23p to 10212p and Drew Scientific 1312p to 134p.

Commercial Union back 612p to 64612p after taking a 51 per cent stake in Marlborough Underwriting. Oriel Group, the insurance broker, with year-end results due this month, attracted renewed interest, adding 1112p

The launch of the film Fever Pitch is proving good news for Cassell, the publisher, sending Nick Hornby's book back into the bestseller lists. Cassell shares jumped 612p to 9112p, despite 1996 profits dipping to £712.000.

IBC, the busines information and conference group, jumped 151 zp to 3361 zp, a new high, after reporting a 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £14 million

Shares in Frederick Cooper jumped 6p to 3312p. Pre-tax profits were hit by exceptional charges, but the group is making progress with planned disposals.

United Overseas, another debutante went to a 12p premi um on its first day before closing up 10p at 60p. Murray VCT, another new entrant edged up 212p to end at 10212p. Yorkiyde, the textiles group.

saw its shares fall 12p to

14612p after pre-tax profits more than halved to £1.8 million, while a profits warnings from Coral Products, maker of moulded plastic goods, fell back 16p to 4212p. GILT-EDGED: There were few fireworks to spark interest in the gilts market yesterday, with dealers reporting a slow day. UK manufacturing figures today and the Chancellor's monthly monetary meeting tomorrow may provide more fuel for thought. The June series of the long gilt edged up £232 to £109332 on

volume of 55,000. Treasury 8 per cent 2000 left unchanged £1021332, while Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was down E132 at

NEW YORK: Strength in IBM helped to lift shares. despite a weak bond market. but at midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 14.35 points at 6.541.56.

New York (midday): tones ______ 6541.56 (-14.35) 18021.70 (+306.03) Hong Kong: 12398.57 (+110.73) Amsterdam: EOE Index .. Sydney: Frankfurt: Singapore Brussels: CAC-40. Zurich: London: 4518.7 (+0.3 FTSE 350 ______ 2105.5 (-0.9)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 ____ 2147.42 (+11.08) FTSE GOVE Secs 1,6236 (-0,0061)

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RIGHTS ISSUES

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WIGHS	MIGES
RISES: Rowfinson Secs Sentry Farms Tarmac Ashley (Laura) Kingsbury Gp	. 152'sp (+17'sp) 115p (+11p) 144'sp (+13p) 175p (+13p)
FALLS: Cortecs Vickers DFS Furniture	226p (-10':49) 521':4p (-19p)

Closing Prices Page 31

335p (-10p) 468'ap (-10p)

TEMPUS

A blank sheet of paper

because of any financial pressure - the balance sheet is sound - nor any short-term pressure to boost earnings. In fact, the market is expecting earnings from the Irish packaging group to fall; the industry is in a dreadful recession and the price of recycled containerboard has dropped between 30 to 40 per cent

over the space of a year. The problem is, in part, self-imposed. Smurfit has set itself up as the champion of industry restructuring, correctly identifying that new capacity was crippling returns in a market, such as the US, where demand is strong. Instead of building mills, Smurfit wants to buy and finds itself at the nadir of the paper market with a big balance sheet and gearing of only 34 per cent. There lies the rub;

JEFFERSON SMURFIT badly needs to do a deal, and it could happen this year. This is not deal, and it could happen this year. This is not opportunity. Smurfit will find itself under pressure to deliver more than a 5 per cent dividend increase. Product price erosion makes the problem worse as margins have been shredded and Smurfit is unlikely to be generating returns ahead of the rising cost of its increasingly debt-free capital base.

Smurfit insists it will do a deal; an obvious candidate is its US associate, Jefferson Smurfit Corporation. Buying out the minority would be sensible in a recession, but Morgan be sensible in a recession, but living and Stanley, which owns a third of JSC, is asking too high a price. There are other deals and, in the end, Smurfit will wield its chequebook, but investors should wait for signs of life in the paper market before wielding theirs.

Tarmac

AN UNEDUCATED reader of Tarmac's report on the past year - replete with references to major progress and substantial achieve ments - might be surprised to learn that the construction group made a mere £10.5 million before tax last year. Swapping its house-

building business for George Wimpey's quarrying and construction activities was a step in the right direction, if poorly timed, but Tarmac has a long way to go to

recover lost ground. Tarmac's markets are get-ting better. The fall in UK demand for aggregates has been arrested and prices are improving. There is more construction work about and contracting margins are improving from abysmal levels. Loss-making projects taken on during the recession are

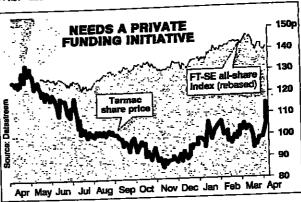
figures will also be flattered by £42 million of provisions against loss-making contracts acquired from Wimpey. However, Tarmac's fortunes remain tied to Britain's

coming to an end. Tarmac's

road-building programme (or lack of one) and Private Finance Initiative work. With £350 million of PFI

preferred bidder status on another £450 million of work, Tarmac badly needs to see the paper workload turn into reality, sooner rather than later. The worry is that Tarmac's balance sheet is too weak to take full advantage of such opportunities and any share price strength could lead to a cash call.

contracts under its belt and



Lloyd's syndicate gives the insurer an unfortunate resemblance to a minor European bank rushing about the City buying stock-jobbing firms on the eve of Big Bang. The canny investors have done their deals - LIMIT and New London Capital snapped up syndicates three years ago, leaving the likes of CU rummaging through the

THE purchase by CU of a

leftovers on the bottom shelf. CU, therefore, was not spoilt for choice when it chose to buy Marlborough Underwriting Agency Ltd. But the Marlborough partners have picked a good time to sell.

Lloyd's has enjoyed good underwriting years in 1994. 1996. But increasing pressure on rates means 1997 may not be as fruitful and its rates may not begin to recover

paid for Marlborough nearly £3 million -- is a mere

DOLLAR RATES

pinprick when compared with CU's net worth of £4 billion at the end of last year. The deal gives CU the opportunity to build up Marlborough's presence in Lloyd's and secure an insider's view of the London market.

In return, Marlborough gets a parent that can supply a steady stream of capital every year and is keen to attract new underwriters.

Marlborough's eight part-ners, who will share in the £2.9 million, have pulled off a good deal. If CU exercises its option to buy the remaining 49 per cent in five years, there will be more rich pickings for other underwriters who join up in the interim.

Highland Distilleries

Apr 8 midday Apr 7

DRINKS companies have struggled during the past few years against static sales in mature Western markets. while emerging markets are not yet big enough to take up

the slack. The only growth in the drinks sector has come from a fashion for white spirits, while Scotch, the Eighties staple, has found itself out of

Highland, one of the smaller players in the market, has found it especially tough going because it is almost totally reliant on whisky. Its Famous Grouse brand has performed relatively well in a declining market — but Highland has struggled to push through price increases. The jury is still out on whether the company overspent with its £180 million purchase of Macallan, but Highland desperately needed a new brand to help to restore it to growth.

Markets are slowly improving for whisky and the rises for several years might just stick. But there is little to get excited about and Highland shares look unlikely to move far in the near future.

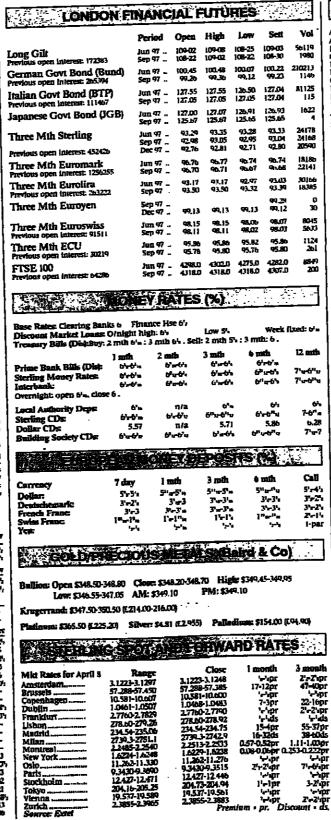
EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

Apr S Apr 7 midday class

WALL STREET

COMMODITIES GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES LIFFE (close E/I) CRUDE OILS &/barrel POB 17.00 -0.10 17.90 -0.15 18.10 -0.15 ay) 19.30 -0.20 m) 19.35 -0.15 PRODUCTS (\$/MT) ROBUSTA COFFEE (S) - 1575-1572 Jan 1575-1565 - 1587-1581 Mar 150-1545 - 1598-1591 May 1550-1530 - 1598-1596 Volume: 1928 Bid 196 (n/c) 166 (+2) 83 (n/c) 181 (n/c) Offer _ unq RUBBER (No I RSS Cif p/ k IPE FUTURES (GNI Lad) 303.4-01.4 302.7-01.0 GAS OIL 162.75-63.00 Jul ... 164.00 BID AUE . LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Let \$10/pt)

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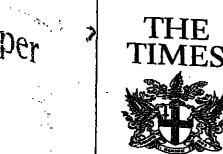


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Champagne

thanks

MULTI-MILLIONAIRE siblings Don and Roy Richardson made a sur-prise visit to the Millennium & Copthorne Hotels agm yesterday, arriving laden with gifts. Just as the show at the Britannia Hotel was coming to a close, the 66-year-old identical twin brothers, the powers behind the Birmingham property scene, made their presence known. Handing a bottle of Dom Perignon to each of the directors, they announced how happy they were with their shareholding.

Ashdown's man

BOOTS Healthcare International's loss will be the Lib Dem's gain. For the next month, Ian Wright is dropping out of sight as BHI's head of public relations, only to reappear on the Lib Dem election campaign as Paddy Ashdown's spokesman. Wright is no stranger to politics — in a former incarnation he was vicepresident of the SDP.

Election keys

TIMPSON is picking up the pace in line with the general election. The shoe repair chain is measuring voters' intentions across the country, inviting cus-tomers to pick a plastic key cap in the colour of their favourite party. Labour is leading with 35.4 per cent. only 4.7 per cent ahead of the Conservatives. Customers at the Knutsford branch (Neil Hamilton's local) have caps in only blue or white, for the saintly Martin Bell, to



George Walker has been seen in Moscow

SPOTTED in Moscow last week - no doubt helping to bring the joys of capitalism to Russia – was George Walker of Brent Walker fame. Staying at the same hotel was Achille Occhetto, former head of the Italian Communist

Staple, QC

CONGRATULATIONS to George Staple, director of the Serious Fraud Office, and now a QC, after taking silk in a traditional ceremony in the House of Lords yesterday. It is still a rare honour for a solicitor and is proof that his soonto-expire five-year tenure at the SFO has been regarded by the authorities. at least, as a success.

WORD reaches me that Peter Seabrook, head of UK equity fund managers at Robert Fleming has resigned his post by "mu-tual agreement". Sea-brook who joined the private merchant bank in 1985, has been replaced by insider John Rosier.

Long sentence

A WARNING for those who believe that issuing judges' transcripts will help more accurate reporting. Speaking during a trial at Southwark Crown Court yesterday His Honour Judge Butler confessed his surprise at one particular transcript. He noted in jolly fashion: "I can't believe I said some of the things I'm supposed to have said. There appears to be one sentence of 12 pages that's not my style." I should hope not!

MORAG PRESTON



The Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, presents a report that combines religion with the politics and economics of unemployment

Wise Man gives credence to jobs report by churches

volatile mixture, as the general election campaign is showing, then the economy and religion is probably an even more unstable blend. When all three come together, as they did in yesterday's report from the churches on unemployment, the combination is potentially explosive. Launched in the midst of a general

election campaign, politicians were bound as they did yesterday to crawl all over the study on work and unemployment* from the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, But what about its economics? As an analysis and a set of prescriptions for dealing with unemployment and work, do the proposals of the II leading denominations in a key area of economic policy stand up?

This is based on well-grounded economics," said the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, chairman of the churches inquiry's sponsoring panel. Independent economists are likely to give it considerable credence - not least because its principal author is Andrew Britton, former director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, and one of the Treasury's original wise men team of respected outside economic advisers to the Chancellor, and formerly a Treasury official himself.

Are the churches' recommendations on jobs economically sound, or workable? This is not the same question as whether they are what any particular olitical or economic faction thinks is the right thing to do; but it is likely that most independent economic commentators with an interest in unemployment and the future of work are likely to find that the churches' study is on a sound economic basis, that it has done its numbers and its work properly.

That does not mean that some of the churches' key recommendations are not highly contentious. Take its most controversial proposal yesterday - tax. In the British election campaign," the churches say, "the political parties are competing for votes by promising low **Philip Bassett** looks at the implications of a controversial offering in politics and economics as the general election nears

taxation. When so many are living in poverty and unemployment, it is wrong to give priority to the claims of those who are already well off."

What is needed, the churches say, to tackle unemployment properly is not a new job scheme, or schemes, though they examine many of those, but instead what political and business leaders will now not speak of: a "sustained and large-scale expansion of employment, supported by public spending, in many sectors of the economy" - for which the "main source of finance must be additional taxation".

Britain, they say, has a relatively low" ratio of taxation to GDP. In 1994, general government receipts in Britain were 36.4 per cent of GDP, compared with 46.5 per cent in Germany and 48.9 per cent in France, though only 31.5 per cent in the US. The churches insisted that it would be possible to add "several percentage points" of GDP to taxation over a run of years, allowing a gradual expansion of labour-intensive public expenditure, without causing "serious harm" to the economy or treating any taxpayers with "flagrant" injustice.

Those responsible for proposing poliin a new government after the election were groaning yesterday that the churches' report gets disturbingly unspecific at this point, referring vaguely to taxes on materials, fuels or the higher income tax rates.

The churches claim that not only is taxation a moral issue, as the bishop said yesterday, but the idea of higher taxes has considerable public support Taxpayers actually want better services than they have been receiving over the past 20 years and the drives for economy in the public sector have been conducted in such a way that they are actually preventing taxpayers from getting what they want."

So runs much opinion poll evidence. The authoritative British Social Attitudes study, for instance, has regularly charted large-scale support for higher taxes. Yet as the BSA's own analysis by David Lipsey, a former associate editor of The Times, has shown, such consistent evidence has come at precisely the same time as the Conservatives have won four elections in a row in which they argued for state spending to be curbed and taxes cut. In the privacy of the polling booths, what they say and what they do become different things. As a political party, Labour has taken a long time to learn that lesson - and despite the churches' support for Labour policies like a minimum wage, Labour politicians moved yesterday to distance themselves sharply from the churches' tax-and-spend proposals.

mployment analysts are likely to be sceptical about the practical applicability, then, by any political party wishing and likely to gain office, of one of the churches' central recommendations to tackle unemployment. They may or may not think it is right, but they are likely to judge it unleasible. The churches insisted they had rejected many of the classic Keynesian positions on unemployment, refusing in particular to take the traditional Keynesian line of an expansion of demand to create jobs as posing too many threats to inflation. As Mr Britton claimed of the report: The economics on which it is based is 1990s economics, and not 1960s economics."

Its economics, he said, were "very orthodox and familiar. We look for solutions within the market system, saying that the system can be made to produce much better results. At present it is producing too much poverty and social exclusion. It does not have to be like that." Unemployment could be much lower. Jobs could pay a decent wage and produce something of "real value" to communities. There could be "enough good work for everybody".

Economists, business leaders and politicians will argue about the churches' proposals — is a minimum wage right? Should the Conservatives' Job Seekers' Allowance be scrapped? Has the sapping of trade union strength gone too far for the protection of people at work? Is unemployment really at more than four million, as opposed to less than two million? But though they may disagree with the economics of the churches' report, they will not be able to deny that its economic spine is there.

Even so, for hard-headed business, the language of the churches report may be unusual, and the churches recognise this. "The Bible," they say, "does not speak of public sector borrowing or job creation, of a benefit system, of the respective merits of direct and indirect taxation, of world markets and industrial competitiveness", yet they say that in reaching their highly economic and political conclusions, they have been drawn back to the Bible to make recommendations that they say are "just and feasible", and as at home in the language and argument of industrial competitiveness as they and wrongs, and good and evil.

Yesterday's intervention by the churches importantly reinserts the moral dimension in the argument in a way that may be both uncomfortable and controversial for political and business leaders, but in a way in which unemployed people themselves are likely to feel is both overdue and welcome.

* Unemployment and the Future of Work: an Enquiry for the Churches. CCBI, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London, SEI 7RL. E8.50.



A respectable way to delay EMU's launch

would run again; and Theo Waigl, the Finance Minis-ter, said Germany can be flexible about the criteria for EMU entry. On Monday the mark fell 26 cents against the dollar, and faster against gold. The market, in short, still believes that as long as Helmut is there, EMU will start on time: and the market hates the idea. So does British industry, as it finds itself carried helplessly into the stratosphere on the other end of the market seesaw; there are now signs of a pro-EMU industrial movement: if you can't help beating them, join them.

Euro-devaluation rules; OK? Well. perhaps. This is hardly what Kohl had in mind. still less the Bundesbank. Officials are industriously leaking their disapproval of Eurostat, the Brussels committee which has approved French and Italian fudge; and despite high-level denials, they continue to urge a two-year delay. The Italians have officially asked for one year, and although they were shouted down, the rumours will not die. Politically, of course, a delay could be humiliating for the main sponsors; but that may not be conclusive. Stephan-Gotz Richter, a Washington financial analyst with excellent German contacts, says that they have a technical alibi up their sleeves.

The market's misgivings

have not yet put much of a price on failure or delay, which would appear in the exchange markets; but that could happen soon. Can Germany itself qualify? Not even the official German forecasters yet believe that it can; but to avert a possible currency meltdown, he Chancellor will have to do better than that at the Eurointer-Governmenta: Conference in Amsterdam in June. Meanwhile, it is the bond markets that will have to take any post-EMU strain, as Charles Goodhart (ex-Bank of England) has argued recently. They are starting to retreat a little nervously from the convergence plays that were so profitable last year. Indeed, David Hale, of

Zurich Insurance, surmises

simple story: last that if EMU is launched week Chancellor with a wide membership, it Kohl declared he will not be long before the bonds of some of the weaker players are prices for possible secession, like Quebec bonds in Canada EMU may be intended as a fluctuation-free zone, but it cannot be insulated against economics and finance.

So what could cause a respectable delay? The 2000 problem, that's what. This may or may not be a bug in your personal computer, but it is a major problem for the big mainframes which run the world's financial system. These were programmed when computer memory was slow and expensive; the adoption of a two-digit code for the date achieved worthwhile economies. But all sorts of sub-programmes are

hinged on the date. One or two absurdities have already emerged: for example, the trustees of an investor over 100-years-old had their application for a new issue rejected by the computer, on the grounds that she was two young to hold shares in her own name: it could not recognise the date 1895. Centenarians are rare, but a 2000 glitch would affect everyone. A further problem: most mainframes were programmed in Cobol. now out of date; so Cobol-literate programmers are a bottleneck. There is market evidence of this: even in London, which is not even trying to get ready for EMU, a lively futures market in programming services has already surfaced.

cross the Channel, A Richter reports, some senior bank executives have said they may be unable to find enough programmers to tackle 2000 and 1999 at the same time. But they have to make 2000 their top priority, for that the bank, not just the reputation of the Chancellor. But there, too, is his salvation: "We remain committed, of course, to our EMU project, but due to technical problems beyond our control . . . " Rücksprung durch Technik, as he might say, or Verzögerung durch Technik a technical hitch. A forecast? Not quite; but surely too poetic not to be true.

Clare Stewart on the successful rebirth of a British brand

New Lec comes in from the cold

ec is Dead. Long live Lec. So runs the punchy I new marketing slogar from the British fridge and freezer manufacturer as it relaunches itself in the world

At first glance Lec's rebirth looks like a story of traditional British pluck in the face of fierce foreign opposition, a home-grown business that has pulled through to take on the might of Electrolux of Sweden and Whirlpool of the USA. Lec. Britain's oldest fridge maker, based in Bognor, the Sussex seaside town, is back with a vengeance after its near demise in the early 1990s. In 1987-88 Lec was on a roll.

Sales peaked at £56 million. generating pre-tax profits of had plunged to a loss of nearly £3 million and employee numbers halved to around 1,000. Today Lec remains proudly

Bognor-based and Britishmanaged but is, in fact, wholly owned by Sime Darby, the Malaysian conglomerate. Since acquiring the business in 1994, it has invested £60 million in Lec. "We are still a British company but with a Malaysian fairy godfather," says Ian Truin, marketing manager. Sales have recovered to their 1987 peak, having risen 60 per cent in the past two years and, says Mr Truin. the company expects to make a trading profit in the 1908 financial year.

Lee currently claims second place in the UK fridge market with a 15 per cent market share behind Hotpoint with 18 per cent. Lec's relaunch has included a new logo and corporate identity but more importantly a comprehensive redesign of its product range. ges at Lec owe more to Far



"Fridges traditionally have been bland white boxes. We saw the opportunity to make something that looks good and is ergonomically designed," says Mr Truin.

The new-look fridges boast integral handles running the length of the doors to allow for easier opening, internal curved corners to cut down on dirt traps and external curves to give a less angular shape. Energy efficiency and recyclable components are also part of the package.

Lec's British designers may have produced a completely new kind of fridge" but arguably more fundamental chanEastern management ideas. A year ago Lec introduced the Japanese Kaizen continuous improvement style of management which encourages much greater input from the workforce. "For one hour a week we stop the factory and everyone gets together to work on projects," says Mr Truin. "We have had a very mixed

reaction from staff," says Mr Truin. A mixed reaction is probably something of an understatement, given Lec's paternalistic culture prior to Sime Darby's takeover. The company was set up by Charles Purley, a Sussex fishmonger, in 1940 and remained a family-run business until the

late 1980s. "It was a very typical British company, with a rather autocratic style of management," recalls Mr Truin, who joined in 1994 just before Sime Darby's arrival. However the company was left in virtual limbo after

Charles Purley's death and the ensuing three-year court case to settle his estate. "The recession coincided with the decline of the company," says Mr Truin. "Lec had been a rather dormant business and not invested in design and dev-elopment." It also had to contend with a rush of cheap imports into the market.

By 1994 manufacturer Candy had taken a 16 per cent stake

in Lec. However, while Lec's management were exploring options for attracting further with Sime Darby led to a £21.6 million bid for the business.

Lec is one of the smaller fish in the Sime Darby pond. The group was set up in 1910 by two British plantation owners in Malaysia and its empire from Bognor Regis to Papua New Guinea now includes 300 companies in 21 countries.

Despite the rapid increase in sales and improved production, it might appear that Lec's progress is limited when up against the likes of Candy/Hoover. Electrolux, which owns Zanussi, Hotpoint, and Merloni with

the Ariston and Indesit brand. But since 1993 and the worst of the recession the market in the UK has seen steady growth. Mintel, the research group, says there was volume growth overall of 23 per cent between 1991-95 with fridgefreezers the fastest growing sector, increasing by 27 per

cent over the same period. Further steady growth is forecast. Overall the market is estimated to top £700 million this year rising to £830 million by 2000. Lec, says Ian Truin, has its sights set on brand leadership in the UK and hopes to build up its export market which at present accounts for just 10 per cent of

The design appeal of the new style range is also key to building sales. "It is rather like a car that you feel good about because it works well," he says. "If we could make that little leap with fridges so that they are not just anonymous boxes in the kitchen, we would be very happy."

BRITISH CITIZENS NOW REQUIRE A VISA TO WORK, STUDY OR SETTLE IN **HONG KONG**

With effect from 1 April 1997, British citizens may visit Hong Kong visa-free for up to six months. But, if they want to take up employment, establish or join in a business, study or settle in Hong Kong, they will have to obtain an

Visa applications may be made by post directly to the British Citizens Unit, Immigration Department, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong by the applicants themselves or through their sponsors in Hong Kong.

appropriate visa before arrival.

British citizens who have taken up residence in Hong Kong prior to 1 April 1997 but who have not yet acquired the "Resident British citizen" status (those who have been ordinarily resident in Hong Kong for a continuous period of not less than seven years and have the right to land in Hong Kong) may continue to work or live in Hong Kong until their current limit of stay expires.

For information,

please call (852)2824 4055 or fax to (852)2598 8388 or through E-mail at roa@immd.gcn.gov.hk.

Other changes affecting British citizens with regard to the right to land and the special deportation and removal arrangements will be implemented at a later date when the Immigration (Amendment) Bill 1997 is enacted.

US phone company hopes to secure Europe

BY ERIC REGULY

ONE of America's largest phone companies is bidding to guard Europe's homes. Ameritech, of Chicago, is preparing to spend up to \$500 million on buying security monitoring companies in France, Germany and Britain.

Several targets are on the short list and the first acquisition is to be made before the end of the year. Ameritech, one of the

regional "Baby Beli" companies, said its goal "is to build a pan-European security business within a couple of years. It considered entering the market with a takeover bid for Securicor, but decided the company was too big and had too many divisions. such as security guards, which it did not want.

Dennis LaComb, Ameritech's director of international affairs, said that the company's efforts to enter the security monitoring market in Europe marked a change of strategy. Since the early 1990s it has spent about \$4 billion buying stakes in newly privatised telecom companies such as Matav. the Hungarian phone company. Belga-com of Belgium and Tele-com Corp of New Zealand.

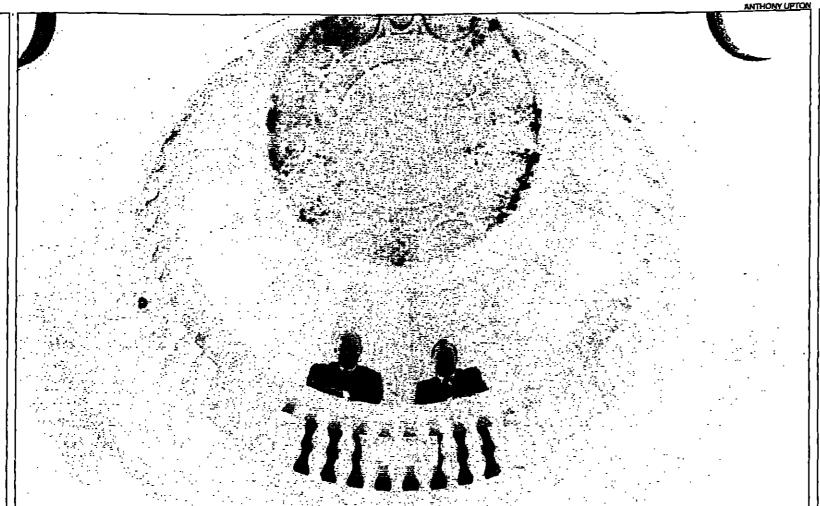
The slowing pace of privatisations has forced Ameritech to look elsewhere for international

Security monitoring involves the installation in homes and businesses of burglar and fire alarms. closed circuit cameras and electronic card systems. Ameritech was initially attracted to the market because most of these systems require phone links to police and fire stations. In America, Ameritech's SecurityLink business is the second largest player in the \$15 billion market. In Canada, SecurityLink is

the market leader. Mr LaComb said Ameritech wants to get estab-Germany before looking continental Europe, he said, were less competitive and could be penetrated more easily.

Separately, Mr LaComb played down speculation that Ameritech wants to form a transatlantic partnership or alliance with Cable and Wireless. The rumours surfaced last year when Richard Brown, an Ameritech executive, became C&W chief executive.

Questions will be invited.



HORACE CLARKSON, the shipbroker, returned to the black last year with a recovery to profits before tax of £2.4 million in 1996 from losses of £6 million in the previous year. The shares responded with a 212p total dividend for the year to rise from 3p to 4p a share, with a final 2.5p.

Hugh McCoy, managing director, left, pictured in the Baltic Exchange Building with Rob Ward, finance director, said: "The outlook for the shipping rise to 103½p. Earnings per share reached 10.80p, against the previous losses of 26.80p, enabling the market remains encouraging, but we continue to be

concerned over the fall in new building prices and the constant threat of overtonnaging. Our expansion into freight futures broking and container broking and an anticipated increased contribution from our overseas offices should help to generate future

Jefferson Smurfit sees delay before paper prices harden

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

THE long-awaited upturn in paper prices may not now happen until the last quarter of this year, according to Jefferson Smurfit, the Irish paper and packaging group, which yesterday reported a 52 per cent drop in annual pre-tax profit.

The well-signalled difficulties in the industry of overcapacity and low prices cut profits to Ir£201 million in 1996 from Ir£420 million a year earlier. Earnings per share plummeted to Irl2.6p (Ir28p). Ray Curran, chief financial officer, said a new consensus about the need for more discipline in the industry, particularly in the US, may reduce the volatility of prices in the longer term. "I think the message is getting through that invest-

ment in extra capacity is counterproductive. The indus-

try's ability to return share-

holder value will be driven by further consolidation and greater discipline. Clearly the market will not accept for long an industry which, as a recent survey has shown, did not earn its cost of capital in seven of the last ten years."

Although the slump in prices affected all areas, a strong contribution from its non-cyclical Irish business contributed to sales of Ir £464 million

in the Ireland and UK region (Ir £628 million). Profits fell to Ir£34 million (Ir£48 million). In continental Europe, profits fell Ir£82 million to Ir£113 million on sales of IrEI.485 billion in spite of a strong perfor-mance from the solid board business in The Netherlands. The South American region

accounted for Ir£47 million, or

18 per cent of overall profits,

on reduced sales of Ir £360 mil-

lion. Overcapacity was worst in the US. As the year progressed the supply-demand balance that had favoured the producer shifted rapidly as new capacity came on stream. Waste was no longer in short supply and product prices fell," Mr Curran said.

Although lower prices affected all sectors, the container division was hardest hit with the average price for liner-board falling to \$375 a tonne during the year from more than \$500 a tonne in 1995. In spite of the downturn, net

borrowing was cut by Ir£100 million to Ir£482 million and at the end of 1996 the debt/equity ratio stood at 34 per cent. According to Mr Curran, a strong balance sheet could allow further acquisi-tions this year. "We have always used the cycle to our advantage and sought to acquire when the industry was in poor shape and we continue

to look at opportunities wher-ever they arise," he said. The company declared a final dividend of Ir2.7p, due on June 30, giving a total of Ir4.2p, up 5 per cent.

Letter may save pensions appeal costs

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

has thrown a potential lifeline to two pensioners facing financial ruin in a legal battle with National Grid. David Laws and Reg

Mayes, former employees of National Grid, could lose their homes and life savings if separate appeals by the company and the trustees of its pension fund go against them. In February Julian Farrand, the Ombudsman, upheld the men's complaint that National Grid had wrongfully used £46.3

THE Pensions Ombudsman million of surpluses arising would be illogical to pay the from Electricity Supply Pension Scheme in 1992 to pay for a wave of redundancies. This decision could cost electricity companies £1.5 billion and and have a bearing on Labour plans for a windfall tax.

Both National Grid and the trustees of its pension scheme have filed separate appeals against the pensioners, the Ombudsman and each other, but have refused to pay the costs of Mr Mayes and Mr Laws. National Grid said it

costs, while the trustees said the appearance of Dr Farrand made the presence of Mr Laws and Mr Mayes unnecessary. A five-day appeal could incur £200,000 in legal expenses.

This week the Pensions Ombudsman's office forced the trustees on the defensive by announcing that Dr Farrand would probably not go to court, but would write a letter to the trial judge instead. The trustees said they would take further legal advice.



By Alan Copps

The IEA maintained its world demand forecast for 1997 at 73.7 million bpd, up 1.8 million on 1996, but cut its estioil by 100,000 barrels to 25.3 million bpd for the year. Opec continues to flout its self-imposed ceiling of a daily ing 27.09 million in March

DRIVER training and better accident management could cut company car insurance claims to a level at which big fleet operators may be able to dispense with costly compre-

The company, which manages fleets totalling 65,000 vehicles in Britain, says that if trends go on, it would pay some fleet operators to buy cheaper third-party insurance and to fund uninsured losses directly.
A survey of its cars in Britain showed that accidents in which damage was caused to an insured vehicle by another party formed a smaller proportion of claims in 1996 than in 1995. "In addition, the average cost of such claims has gone down from £561.87 in 1995 to £314.08."

Steve Dunn, Lease Plan commercial director, said. A risk management programme could include professional accident management

services, driver training and switching to third-party cover. Mr Dunn says driver training has a key role in such a strategy to cut fleet costs. Lease Plan promotes training and is co-sponsor of The Times Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year contest to find Britain's best company car driver. Teams of three from companies of any size are invited. The finals are in July at Silverstone. The top prize is a trip for two to the Portuguese Grand Prix. The entry deadline has been extended to this Friday, April 11. Details from Lease Plan on 01753 797284.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Compaq to create 200 jobs at Erskine

COMPAQ, the computer manufacturer, has announced plans to create more than 200 jobs in Scotland. Compaq said that the new jobs, at its Erskine plant, near Glasgow, were part of its "continuing expansion into the next millennium" part of its continuing expansion into the next influentium, with its aim of becoming the world's third-largest computer company by 2000. The Scotlish operation makes computers for the European market, and yesterday's announcement, according to Compaq, is recognition of ten years of operating in Scotland. It increases the worldoors to more than 2000. in Scotland. It increases the workforce to more than 2,000.

George Devlin, Compaq managing director, said: "I am proud of what Erskine has achieved in its first ten years of operation and I am confident that our people's skill, commitment and experience will make a significant contribution to Compage people." The provides will be contribution to Compaq's goals." The new jobs will be created in the professional, production, materials and engineering areas, the company said.

Golden Vale decline

GOLDEN VALE, the Irish food company, said it hoped for better results in 1997 after reporting a sharp drop in 1996 profits, mainly because of a downturn in the industry. Golden Vale announced a drop in pre-tax profit to IrE6.3 million from IrE16.5 million on turnover of IrE561 million, down from IrE564 million in 1995. The shares remained steady at 552p after the announcement of an unchanged total dividend for the year of 2.26p, out of earnings down from 8.71p to 3.21p. Jim Murphy, managing director, said: "So far so good. The first few months of 1997 are looking quite good."

Coral Products setback

SHARES in Coral Products, the paper and packaging group, fell from 58½ p to 43½ p after the company said that it had been hit by a shortfall of orders and the strong pound. However, Coral expects to maintain its final dividend at 1.5p and its total dividend at 2.25p, and to make at least £950,000 before tax over the full year, against the £1.6 million made in the year to April 30 1996. Coral said that, since the end of February, it has experienced both a shortfall and a deferment of orders, and a lengthening of delivery schedules. It said that it believes that capital investment now under way will bring big benefits.

GBE margins higher

GBE International, the process engineering group, raised pre-tax profits from £1.7 million to £3.5 million in the year to December 31 on sales up 5 per cent to £60.2 million. GBE said the progress reflected much better margins, particularly within its core business. A 1.0p final dividend makes a 1.6p total for the year, up from last year's 1.5p. Earnings per share rose 56 per cent to 4.2p. The company, however, says it is suffering from the strong pound. The shares fell 8½ p to 28½ p.

Development advances

DEVELOPMENT SECURITIES, the property group, raised pre-tax profits from £2.2 million to £4.6 million in the year to December 31 on sales slightly down from £21.6 million to £21 million. Earnings per share rose from 7.1p to 14.5p and the total dividend goes up from 2.4p to 2.7p. Net assets per share rose from 241p to 246p against a share price that rose yesterday from 2422p to 2432p. The company said the development programme was gaining momentum.

Johnson Fry falls 15%

JOHNSON FRY, the financial services group, saw pre-tax profit fall 15 per cent to £2.4 million last year as it continued its conversion into a specialist fund manager. Earnings per share were 15.9p (20.7p) as the company sold its independent financial advice business. It has an £8 million cash pile having sold Pinnacle, another subsidiary, in January. Total net assets rose £10.7 million (£9.1 million). The final dividend. due on May 31, is held at 2p, giving an unchanged total of 4p.

Scotia replaces adviser

SCOTIA HOLDINGS, the drug development company, has appointed Robert Fleming as its financial adviser in place of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, which also used to act as joint broker. Scotia said it took the decision to move its business on Monday, though this is disputed by Kleinwort Benson, which said it resigned last week. Scotia will work with Flemings's specialist healthcare team, which been advising the company on licensing deals. Hoare Govert continue as Scotia's broker.

Dental care alliance

PHILIPS ELECTRONICS said that it had formed an oral care alliance with Jordan, with the first product of the alliance being a new Philips/Jordan 2-action plaque remover electric toothbrush. Phillips said that the world oral care market has an estimated retail value of between \$8 billion and \$8.5 billion, with electric toothbrushes representing between 5 and 10 per cent of the market and growing rapidly.

Thomas Jourdan ahead

THOMAS JOURDAN, the furniture and furnishings group that faces a move by shareholders to oust the chairman and the non-executive directors, yesterday reported a rise in pre-tax profits from £232,000 to £861,000 on sales up from £23.3 million to £25.3 million. Earnings per share rose from 1.3p to 3.7p and the total dividend for the year rises from 1.25p to 1.5p. The shares gained ½p to 67½p.

Rowlinson shares jump

SHARES in Rowlinson Securities lept 60p to 2622 p after the group said it was in discussions that are likely to result in an offer being made for the company. The identity of the suitor was not revealed in the announcement although a further announcement was promised. Rowlinson is worth about £32.7 million at yesterday's price. In the year to March 1996 Rowlinson made £3.3 million before tax on sales of £13.8 million.

Smit, a former archaeologist, record producer and composer, will tell of his discovery and re-creation of the magnificent Victorian gardens at Heligan in Cornwall. Tickets at £10 (concessions for OAPs, students and the unemployed, with 1D, £7.50) include £2 off both books, are available by phoning 0171-734 1483, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-494 1313 or 0171-287 2638, by e-mail on 187picc@hatchards.co.uk or by sending the coupon with your remittance to Hatchards, 187 Piccadilly, London, WIV OLE. Tickets are also available to personal callers

THE TIMES/HATCHARDS GARDEN FORUM

THE TIMES & Hatchard

Gardening forum

with Tim Smit and

Penelope Hobhouse

READERS are invited to a forum with two of Britain's leading

gardeners, Tim Smit and Penelope Hobhouse, on Tuesday, April 15 at 7.30pm at the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7, Chaired by Stephen Anderton,

The Times Gardener, the forum marks the publication of Hobhouse's book, Garden Designs (Frances Lincoln, £25) and Smit's The Lost Gardens of Heligan (Victor Gollancz, £20).

Hobhouse, a designer, plantswoman and colourist, will reveal

how she has created a range of successful gardens, from a

courtyard garden in Paris to one on a windswept Scottish island.

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Weak oil prices predicted by IEA

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

THE International Energy Agency disappointed the oil market yesterday with a prediction of weak prices in the coming months.

The West's energy watchdog said that stocks had returned to good health, production by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) was surging and alternative supplies were ample. Slack winter demand and

rising output from Opec and elsewhere left stocks barely

lower in the critical first three months of the year, the (EA's latest oil market report stated. Industry stocks in the wealthy nations that are members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development fell a 100,000 barrels per day (bpd) in the

first quarter, compared with 1.5 million bpd in the same period last year. World benchmark Brent

crude futures have slumped from just below \$25 in early January to \$17.65 last Friday. the lowest in nearly ten months. Oil from the North Sea Brent field steadied in price yesterday, trading up 20 cents at \$17.96 a barrel at midday.

mate of the demand for Opec 25.03 million barrels, produceach day, the IEA said.

Tomiichi Akiyama in June announcing Sumitomo's copper-dealing loss

Fleet car study backs training of drivers

hensive cover, according to a survey by Lease Plan.

Investor sues Sumitomo executives for £1bn FTVE executives of Sumitomo Corporation yesterday faced a £1 billion damages suit for failing to

> deals that resulted in huge losses for the trading house. Kazuyoshi Yuoka, a Sumitomo shareholder, is seeking compensation of Y200.4 billion, claiming that unauthorised deals by Yasuo Hamanaka, the former copper trader, were made possible by Sumitomo's lax system of checks and controls.

take steps to prevent illegal copper

Sumitomo has said that it lost \$2.6 billion on world copper mar-kets as a result of Hamanaka's illegal transactions, which continued undetected for more than a decade. In February, Hamanaka, for many years the most influential

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

player in the global copper market, pleaded guilty in a Tokyo court to charges of fraud and forgery. Mr Yuoka, head of a property

management firm in Osaka, has brought the suit against Tomiichi Akiyama, Sumitomo's former chairman, and four other former executives, including Hamanaka's direct supervisor, Akio Imamura.

Mr Akiyama resigned in February to assume responsibility for the copper scandal, and was made a senior adviser to the company. He and other executives have claimed that Hamanaka was acting alone and that they knew nothing about the improper deals.

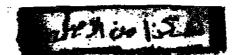
According to the lawsuit filed yesterday with Osaka District Court, Sumitomo executives were at

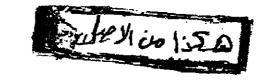
fault in giving Hamanaka free rein without proper checks. The suit claims that the executives failed to heed alarm bells when the London Metal Exchange made a number of enquiries to Sumitomo about Hamanaka's activities from December 1991,

Tadashi Matsumura, a lawyer for the plaintiff, said that the lawsuit sought compensation for the company as a whole rather than for one individual shareholder.

This suit is intended as a warning to Japanese companies about the dangers of loose risk management systems". Mr Matsumura said.

In a statement, Sumitomo said that it was not in a position to comment about a suit filed against individual former executives.

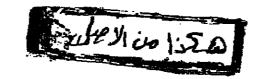




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OPERA 1

Berlioz is poorly served by English National Opera's gimmicky staging of The Damnation of Faust



OPERA 2

. but at the Royal Opera Bryn Terfel makes a superb return to Strauss's Salome





Spirit of '68: Stockhausen's once-acclaimed Stimmung is revived on the



POP

Mary Black adds a touch of the raunchy stuff to her act, and wins over the fans at the Barbican

OPERA: ENO fails to deliver the expected Berlioz riots. Plus anger from Bryn Terfel in Strauss

Long dark night in the stalls

quires a reputation for horror-shock in advance of the first night — it's all part of the build-up — and so it was with English National Opera's staging of Berlioz's "dramatic legend", conducted by Mark Elder and directed by David Alden. Fall-out after the dress rehearsal suggested a return to the heady days of ENO in the Eighties: the audience would be shaken to the very core of its being, there would be fist-fights between booers and cheerers at the

The Damnation of Faust Coliseum

end, dear little old ladies would belabour each other with weighted handbags, all to be faithfully reported in the late editions. Alas, no such luck. The only sound to be heard at curtain-fall on Monday was a barely suppressed yawn. What is essentially a concert

work, and hence not loaded down with stage directions for traditionalists to quote back, is well suited to a free-wheeling director - it's open season. But one person's series of meaningful images - in this case Roni Toren (sets) plus Brigitte Reiffenstuel (costumes) — is another person's strychnine. And there are severe problems with a directorial style based on fierce emoting, often in slow motion, if the lighting is so dim that you can't see the characters, or if the cast is

they are supposed to be emoting. The images are there all right, many of them now cliches of modernist production — the motorway, the telephone kiosk and line of telegraph poles, wheelchairs, people carrying suitcases, super-numeraries of indeterminable gender, and asylum settings. At least the long-expected bare light bulb

not too hot at conveying what it is

was replaced by a chandelier. There's a nice Nigel Lowery Ring joke on a graffiti-filled wall, and it was fun working out whether Faust was supposed to look more like Woody Allen or Elton John, Throwing gladdies at the audience was new, in onera at least, and plumn Boy Scouts in purple with toothbrush moustaches struck a duly sinister note. Faust, Marguerite



All dressed up but nowhere to go: Willard White (Mephistopheles). Bonaventura Bottone (Faust) and Louise Winter (Marguerite) make a point by donning the garb

Mephistopheles donning and is thus a natural Berlioz his reading was — what is the right dreadful "operatic" costumes for their trio made its point about Gounod's Faust, but what the whole caboodle was supposed to

add up to i cannot begin to suggest. The best thing about the evening was the actual sound. Elder has the

conductor. The contained, bright string tone allowed every shade of colour to emerge without the need for "pointing", right down to the planissimo bass drum in the Hungarian March. And he has a wonderful feel for the elusive shape most fastidious of ears for texture, of Berlioz's musical phrases. But the high points of the evening.

word? - spacious, perhaps. If you think of Berlioz in terms of reckless impulse, then try another address. Louise Winter was in seductively plushy voice as Marguerite, and expressive viola and cor anglais support made her two big numbers

Maybe Willard White wasn't entirely at ease performing Mephistopheles's Serenade as a Maurice Chevalier top hat and cane number, but he sang beautifully and adopted a nicely sardonic mien. The relentlessly high-flying title role is a killer to which

timbre is not wholly suited, but he went at it fearlessly. Graeme Danby made an impact as a skinhead Brander, and the augmented chorus was on lusty form. But I can't remember when I was Friday or next Monday will be abl last so grateful for a final curtain. to see it at a future date on BBC2.

RODNEY MILNES

A body of anguished evidence

WHEN the Royal Opera's Salome revival opened just over a week ago, it was as if Robert Hale, as John the Baptist, was not so much preparing the way of the Lord as making the way straight for Bryn Terfel. It was Terfel who created the role of Jokanaan when Luc Bondy's production was new, and he now returns to it for the last four performances.

One of the wonders in this albeit

Salome Covent Garden

flawed production is that each singer makes each role very much his or her own. And Terfel as Jokanaan, of course, has done so supremely from the start. From the moment the crucial spot in the palace floor stirs uneasily, like the slow eruption of a molehill, and the great human arm surfaces from its underground prison, right up to the final, silent martyrdom, this Baptist's presence endures far beyond the short span of the role.

The body language expresses a tense equilibrium of torment and nobility. Only in his visionary moments does this Jokanaan's body find its true axis, its proper perpendicular: when physical, earthy matters are at issue, it is tortuously earthbound. And Terfel's voice is, characteristically, at one with the expression of his body. Anger and anguish serrate its edge: yet spiritual vision transfigures his bass-baritone into a new and supple tenderness.

The psychological growth of Salome herself is only thinly sketched in this production, yet the intensity of Catherine Malfitano's protracted battle of wills with Terfel brings a compensatory concentration of focus. The return of Terfel certainly brings new impetus to a musical momentum already confidently and thrillingly under way under the baton of Christoph von Dohnanyi. Those who fail to catch the show on

HILARY FINCH

CONCERTS: Stockhausen revisited; Stravinsky at length; and a stunning stand-in soprano

Patience sore tested

adio 3's Sounding the Century series is providing valuable opportunities to re-encounter some of the seminal works of the contemporary era. On Sunday a group from the London Sinfonietta Voices took us back to 1968 for Stockhausen's Stimmung and Cornelius Cardew's The Great Learning. The former is the more significant work and it remains for all its infuriating eccentricities, a major contribution to the repertory -something that cannot be said of Stockhausen's more recent

offerings. Stimmung requires the six singers, seated in a semicircle to vocalise on the overtones of a single fundamental - a low B flat building up a complex web of vowel sounds (by moving tongue and lips) and of pitches derived from the primary note. The effect is of a single chord, with occasional variants, sustained (in this performance) for 85 minutes.

Stimmung Oueen Elizabeth Hall

Each of the work's 51 sections follows a "model", set by a lead singer, the others gradually conform to the model and a new section is started. Magic names - gods and goddesses - are periodically called out and their vowels assimilated into the

The London Sinfonietta Voices were not afraid to introduce flashes of humour Nicole Tibbels shricking "come on", Terry Edwards invoking "Zeus" with exaggerated resonance - but could do little to redeem the embarrassment of Stockhausen's own love poems.

singers elected to embark on the sections in random order - a considerable technical feat rarely, if ever, attempted before, and executed with commendable assurance.

THE CRITICS UP FOR REVIEW

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Four Critics in the Director's Chair...

From Cardew's The Great Learning (which, complete, runs to some seven hours) we heard just "Paragraph 1". Here the "chorus" (for which the London Sinfonietta Voices were joined by special guests that included the composer Diana Burrell) do not sing. Instead they clash stones, blow whistles and chant a text taken from Confucius. None of which is as vacuous as it might sound: the subtle crossrhythms on stones made an arresting opening, for instance, while clusters of sus-

tained tones were modified

ing each whistle "solo". If almost superhuman patience is required to respond to this slowly evolving process - and I admit that I was sorely tested — then that is a fair reflection on the oft-For this performance, the repeated Confucian message of self-discipline as the path to enlightenment.

been disappointed by the changes to Saturday's London Philharmonic programme, but the rest of the Festival Hall audience revelled in an excellent concert. Having a glowing artist such as Barbara Bonney step into the shoes of the temperamental diva (who was indisposed) actually seemed like rather a good deal, and the more focused programme consisting only of Mozart and Mahler was probably an im-

provement too. The first part of the evening became a neat Nozze di Figaro package, with two Susanna's arias preceded by the overture. Christoph Eschenbach, conducting the second of his LPO concerts last week, got superlatively fine playing from the orchestra: with purling winds and shining strings the overture had stylish brio. But Eschenbach gave it dramatic tension, 100. that showed just what Figaro is about. He was a considerate

Symphonies with problems

hen is a symphony not a symphony? More often than not. when it's by Stravinsky. And, as if to prove the point, the BBC Philharmonic collected almost all his non-symphonies together to demonstrate their various degrees of aberrance. as the BBC orchestras' South Bank rites of spring continued. First came the Symphonies of Wind Instruments: etymologically correct, but with not a shadow of symphonic form in almost imperceptibly followsight. Commentators often speak of the composer's cinematic. "splicing" technique. Here it yielded gentle, sepia

original (920 version.

Barry MILLINGTON

nly Stravinskians and Kathleen Battle's devoted fans would have

BBCPO/Tortelier Festival Hall/Radio 3

whole as a concerto for orchesformance, with one smudged

sequences, thanks to Yan-Pascal Tortelier's choice of the Then the Symphony in

Three Movements filled the stage with the BBC Philharmonic - plus a piano. Stravinsky frequently referred to the first movement as a piano concerto, and the work as a

Bonney and blithe

LPO/Eschenbach Festival Hall

accompanist to Bonney in two arias from the original version of the opera, Venite inginocchiatevi and Deh vieni, non tardar.

Bonney's beautiful voice continues to bloom, and it now has more colour than ever. The soprano used it to bring her first aria to witty life, and in Deh vieni floated lines that were full of amorous longing. Finally, she was bold in Exsultate, jubilate, capturing the contrasting moods of Mozart's motet. Phrasing was shapely, and the top notes exquisitely controlled.

tra, and Tortelier certainly exploited it as such. Back in time to the Symphony in C, still kicking against the great tradition. But not kicking as hard, perhaps, as it could. After the opening fast, tight crescendo, this was a somewhat cool, pursed-lip per-

entry too many.

The concert ended with the Symphony of Psalms. The London Symphony Chorus were responsible for the ritualised triptych of prayer, promise and praise; but they, too, seemed below par. Perhaps, in this long evening, they had waited just too long for the Lord.

HILARY FINCH

Mahler's Fifth Symphony was conducted by Eschenbach with his characteristic all-out intensity, but also with the clear-headedness that is vital in this music; without a score he was still attentive to every corner of the enormous orchestra. Every idea in this fluctuating score fell into place, and transitions were smooth. The terrifyingly powerful opening sank naturally into the funeral march that follows, and the music soon swelled up again with shattering vehemence. Eschenbach balanced this on-the-edge newrosis in the first two movements with the gradual affirmation of the remaining three, though he played up the unreality of the dances in the Scherzo rather than any humour its title may imply. Even the famous Adagiento, here a sustained outpouring of quiet luminosity, was tear-laden, and it took the blazing finale to establish that the Fifth is

indeed an optimistic work.

Gone quite contrary

AFTER seven highly successful albums in a misty, softfocus vein, Mary Black went for something of a musical makeover with her new al-bum, Shine. Out went Declan Sinnott, the Irish producer who had been with her from the start, along with the gentle Irish songwriters whose work she had always championed. In came Larry Klein, a top Los Angeles producer best known for his connection with Joni Mitchell, and a cosmopolitan collection of adult rock songs. The result is a tougher sound

POP Mary Black

Barbican

with a bite that has shocked

The new, improved Black

some of her traditional fans.

with added raunch was on offer at "From The Heart", the nine-day festival which is currently turning the Barbican into a supermarket for Irish music, and consumer reaction was highly favourable. In a set of 20 songs, she sang seven numbers from Shine and, alongside the older material, the new songs did just that.

What Klein has skilfully coaxed out of Black is a willingness to attack a song instead of merely stroking it. She opened with the album's title track, a dramatic ballad about rising from the ashes of failed love, which displayed the elasticity of her voice, and followed with One and Only, an up-tempo tune which she grabs by the scruff of its neck and shakes down with an unsuspected vigour.

She stretched the voice further on Richard Thompson's I Misunderstood, and two David Gray songs, Trespass Shoes and Almost Gone, emphasised the breadth of the new attack. Best of all was I Will Be There, a classic call-and-response duet for which the writer, Paul Brady, joined Black on stage. By now the band had also been joined by festival organiser Donal Lunny, Black was bashing the JOHN ALLISON | hell out of a bodhran and

there were no fewer than ten people on stage. The sound was mighty indeed and old Black favourites such as Past the Point of Rescue and Vanities inevitably sounded insipid

by comparison. Black's career had reached a plateau and she had the choice of finding a fresh challenge or

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role of all-round MOR entertainer. She has adventurously struck out for the high road and on the strength of this performance it is the best decision she has ever made.

WILLIAMSON



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■ CHOICE 1

Potsdam revisited: Michael Gambon plays Tom Driberg in Tom and Clem

VENUE: Previews begin tonight at the Aldwych



■ CHOICE 2

Max Stafford-Clark directs April de Angelis's The Positive Hour

VENUE: Opens tonight, West Yorkshire Playhouse





DANCE

At Covent Garden MacMillan's Anastasia is revived with mixed success by the Royal Ballet



JAZZ

A tribute to John Coltrane is one of the. highlights of Cheltenham's jazz festival

DEE CONWAY

ET LIAH: The Royal Philharmonic Onchestro's Classics sense includes the evening's performance of Mendel-ssohn's great creations — a core work in the English choral repertoire. The conductor is Owain Arwel Hughes. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212) Tonight, 7 30pm. (S)

KINGE. Artists, sculptors and photographers celebrate the vibrancy of the Indian sub-continent in an artification in aid of the cherity Kids in Need of projects for children in India and Nepal 74 St James's Street, 5W1 (0171-278 9433). Today and tomorrow, 10am-9pm

SOUTH BANK In the Queen Elizabeth Hall (7 45pm), Kenneth Sillio directs the Academy of St Marth-in-the-Fields in Haydn's Symphony No 88 and the first performance of Tonis Kaumenn's Ministrius Acades, Keth Lews, tenor, Interesting compaction in a generation of joins the orchestra in an exploration of Rimbaud's poetry in Britten's song cycle Les Marminations. The concert ends with a selection of auties from Schubart's Rosamunde. In the Purcell Room (7:30pm), Andrew Keeping performs a programme of guitar maslements

TOM AND CLEM: Michael Gambon plays the Ramboyantly Indiscreet Tom Driberg and Alac McCowen the newly

NI HALLOWEEN NIGHT Rough Magic Company from Ireland brings Four Corners season to a close with Lynne Parker's production of Declar Lynner and a productive or the production of the host to appear Superstural events ensue Dommar Warehouse, Eartharn Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Opens tonight, Then Mon-Sat. 8pm; mat Sat,

4pm. Until April 19. THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING wit, the gravity, the distress. Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sal, 3pm.

I KBNGS Homer, the first two books, as Alan Howard thrillingly talks them, in Christopher Logue's translation. A rare chance to hear the quariel between Achillest and Agameminon presented as the poet interacted, in the performance Trideyete, 259 Kilbum High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000), Mon-Sal, 8pm, mat Set Jenn Hard And 1 Šat. 4pm. Until April 19.

LADY IN THE DARK, The 1941 musical by Moss Hart, Ira Gershwin and Kurt Welf. A fashlon adbor (Marta. Friedman) visate her psychiatris to tell of her dreams about three men. All songs except the finling ballad, My Ship, occur in the dream sequences. Directed by Francesca Zambello. National (Lyttation), South Bank, SE1 (0171-929 2252). Tonghi-Sat, 7.30pm; mai Sat, 2.15pm. In rep. by Moss Hart, ira Gershwin and

NEW RELEASES ◆ FEVER PITCH (15): Football-crazed

◆ FEVER PTCH (15): Football-crazed teacher talls in love. Appealing version of Nick Homby's book, with Colin Firth, Ruth Germell. Director, David Evans. Ctapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) Marbie Arch (0181-315 4220) West End (0181-315 4221) Pitzy (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys (0990-888 990) Martin Challeng (0171-739 2008) Chelses (0171-352 5096)

◆ HARD MEN (18) Tension among London hitmen. Meretricious i thriller in the Tarantino mould ABC Piccadilly (0171-437 3581) A SELF-MADE HERO (15): Jacques

Auchard's captivating film about a bogus Resistance here in the Second World War, with Matthleu Kassovitz. Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) Phoenix (0181-883 2233) Re 837 8402) Rio (0171-254 6677) TOKYO FIST (18): Cyberpunk love trangle from Japanese director Shinya Tsukamoto, Not for the squearnish ICA Carenna (0171-930 3847)

CURRENT

◆ BLOOD AND WINE (15): Seed: Virgins: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) Heymarket (0171-839 1527) Warner (0171-437 4343)

◆ THE ENGLISH PATIENT (15): Mag

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts piled by Gillian Maxey

elected Labour Prime Minister, Clement Attiee, in Stephen Churchett's play, set in Potsdam in the summer of 1945. Richard Wison directs.
Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6007) Previews begin tonght, 7.30pm, Opens April 14, 7pm. Then Mon-Set, 7.30pm; mets Wed and Sat, 3pm

ELSEWHERE

BIRBAINGHAM: Paevo Járvi conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in Steinhammar's overture. Excession and Berwald's Fourth Symphony Nedsen's Fluta Concerto is played by Kevin Gowland, and the evening concludes with Mendelssolm's Symphony No 4. The programma will be repeated on Seburday at 7pm Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-212 3333), Tongith, 7 30pm. (2)

BRISTOL: Cecilia Noble and Steve Toussant in The Amen Corner, James Baldwin's gripping Hot Gospel drama, ptting salvation ageinst lazz. Paulette Randal directs. First reweal since 1987. Old Vio, King Street (0117-987 7877). Previews longht, 7.30pm. Opens

THEATRE GUIDE

☐ LADY WINDERIMERE'S FAN.
Breham Murray's production of Wilde down from Marchester for a ser-week season. Gabriolle Draike plays the women with a pest, Rebecce Johnson the virtuous wife without a mother.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats.
Thurs 3 cm Set Som.

miscleds. Laurence Boswell directs. Apollo, Shaflasbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Set, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, and Set, 4pm.

modern version set on Long Island.
Directed by Steven Deater, Transfer from a self-out run at the Bindewell.
Gleiguid, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1

CINEMA GUIDE

films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆)

passion for Kristin Scott Thomas. Berbican (5) (0171-638 8891) Chelses (0171-351 3742) Claphem Picture House (0171-498 3323) Curzon West House (0171-495 3323) Send (0171-369 1722) Odeons: on (0181-315 4214) Marble (0181-315 420) Plaza (0990-888 890) Renot (0171-837 8402) Richmond (0181-332 0030) Ric (0171-254 8677) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) Sci Beker Street (0171-935 2772) Screen on the Green (D171-226 3520) LICL iteleys (0990-888 990) Virgin ham Road (0171-370 2696) Wa 71-437 4343) Watermans (0181

◆ MARS ATTACKS! (12) Tim Burton's silly and star-studded spool of he alien invasion movie. Värgins: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) Trocadero (5) (0171-434 0031) Warner (0171-437 4343)

◆ SECRETS & LIES (15): Mile Logh's Cannes triumph, an uneven but absorbing tale about territy life. With Brenda Blethyn and Timothy Spall. ton Street (0171-930 0631)

tomorrow, 7 30pm. Then Mon-Wed, 7,30pm. Thurs-Set, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2,30pm, Until May 3

LEEDS Out of Joint and Hempstead Theatre present April de Angelis's withy and assute rew play. The Positive Hours, Although Miranda endeavours to improve the lives of those around her, improve the lives of those stround her, she is increesingly overwhetmed by the feeling that their fortunes are beyond her control. Mex Stefford-Clark directs West Yorkshire Playhouse, The Cusny, Hill Mount (0113-244 2111). Opens tonight, 7 45pm, The Mon-Sel, 7.45pm; mats Wed (Apr 18), 2pm, and Set (Apr 19), 3pm, Uniti April 19, §§)

LONDON GALLERIES

Art First: David Prentice; Margaret Hunter (D71-734 0386). Cafe: New Paintings from West Cornwell: Carole McDowal, Richard Noti, Sax Impey (0171-232 2170). Curreen: Marien Woude: "Thrice the Life..." (0171-836 1459)... Gallery K. Christine Watson — Women of Rome (0171-794 4949) Gresvenor: Mark Shields (0171-629 087). Haywand: Material Culture' The Object of British Art of the 1980s and 1990s (0171-928 3144). National: London's Monets (0171-747 2885)... Orleans House: From 2885). Orleans House: From Realism to Abstraction: Richmond Printingless (1981-992 0221). Pentagram Tony Evens (0171-229 3477)... Whitechapel: Antechamb

(0171-494 5065), Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

SUPER-BEASTS: Cast of four, including Moray Watson, in revue-style production of short stones and playlets by Salo. A show planned by Emlyn Williams in the 1970s but never

previously performed Jermyn Street, 16b Jermyn St, SW1 (0171-287 2875). Previews begin toraght, 7.45pm. Opens April 14

CI THEN AGAIN.... A new Lyric Revue, drawing on the sharper items from years gone by, plus fresh material Neil Bartlett directs Desmond Barnt, Dawn French, Shella Hancock and Neil Mullarkey, with John Gould at the pieno. Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 7:30pm; mats Sat, 2:30pm. Unitl April 19.

□ Blood Brothers: Phoenix (0171-369 1733). □ Cate: New Landon (0171-405 0072). □ The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged): Criterion (0171-369 1737) □ Martin Guerre: Prince Edward (0171-447 5400). □ Si Les Misérables: Paloce (0171-434 0909) □ The Mousetrap: St Martin's (0171-866 1443). □ Bi The Phentom of the Opera: Her Mejesty's (0171-494 5400) □ Starfight Express: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054). □ □ The Women in Black: Fortune (0171-836 2236) Yicket information supplied by Society

LONG RUNNERS

☐ POPCORN® Ben Elton's bistering cornedy about movie violence. A Tartarbroasque offrector gets his compupance when a couple of senal killers (great playing by Patrick O'Kane and Dena Davis) blame him for their products.

☐ ROMANCE, ROMANCE: Musical double-bill by Barry Harman and Keith Hermann, derived from a Schnitzler hit of love in old Vienna coupled with a

 SHINE (12): Child prodigy planist crumples under the strain.
 Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 42)) strain. 2006 (0181-315 4214)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

◆ STAR WARS (U): The movie nilestone returns, with four extra ninutes. With Mark Harnill, Harnson Ford, Carrie Fisher and Alec Gulmese.
ABC Tothenhem Court Road (017)636 61431 Odeons: Kensington (0181315 4214) Leicester Square (0181315 4215) Marbie Arch (0181-315
4215) Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220)
Ribay (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys
(0990 888890) Wrighn Fulham Road (0171-370 2636)

TROJAN EDDE (15): Urban scamp Stephen Rea struggles to be his own man. Droll drame, with Richard Harris Metro (0171-437 0757)

♦ WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
ROMEO + JULIET (12): Effervescent
contemporary treatment, with Leonardo
DCaprio and Claire Danes.
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Claphann Picture House (0171-438
3323) Notting Hill Coronet (2) (0171727 6705) Odeons: Kanstagton
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Flat copy of the old master

DANCE: **Debra Craine** on a patchy Covent Garden revival of Anastasia

would the Royal Ballet do without Kenneth MacMillan? His full-length works are second only to the classics in terms of their importance in Covent Garden's programming. Already this season we've had his Prince of the Pagodas, next week we get his Romeo and Juliet, and on Monday night Anastasia returned to the Royal Opera House stage.

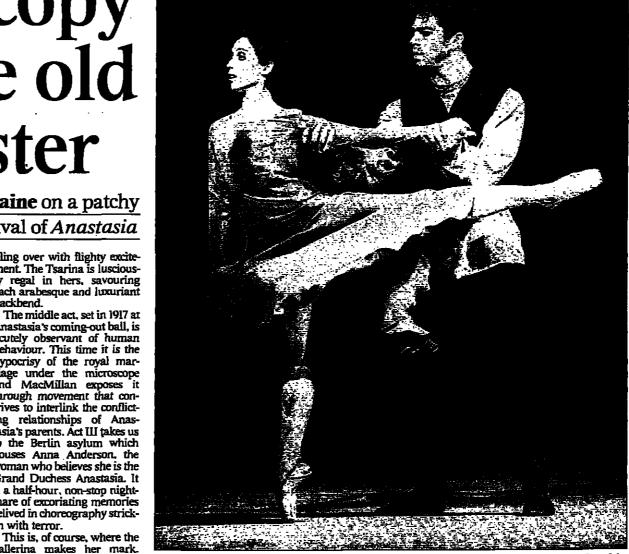
MacMillan's 1971 work possesses neither the narrative thrust of Romeo, nor the symbolist power of Pagodas. Its abrupt change of style in Act III - created in 1967 as a one-act ballet all its own - still jars. But Anastasia does have one thing going for it: some brilliant choreography.

The flow of inspired writing is virtually uninterrupted in Act I, which takes place on the eve of war in 1914. The imperial Russian family is having a picnic and the young Anastasia, like her three sisters, is unaware of the catastrophe brewing in Europe. They dance with a carefree, romantic indulgence, sunning themselves in the warmth of privilege. Anastasia is effervescent in her dancing, bub-

bling over with flighty excitement. The Tsarina is lusciously regal in hers, savouring each arabesque and luxuriant backbend.

Anastasia's coming-out ball, is acutely observant of human behaviour. This time it is the hypocrisy of the royal marriage under the microscope and MacMillan exposes it through movement that contrives to interlink the conflicting relationships of Anastasia's parents. Act III takes us to the Berlin asylum which houses Anna Anderson, the woman who believes she is the Grand Duchess Anastasia. It is a half-hour, non-stop nightmare of excoriating memories relived in choreography stricken with terror.

This is, of course, where the ballerina makes her mark. And it is through the ballerina that the two disparate halves of Anastasia — the Tchaikovsky and the Martinu - are reconciled. Leanne Benjamin, the first cast Anastasia, is physically perfect for the role. Her tiny frame is remarkably pliant, ideal for the elasticity of MacMillan's body language, and she has no hesitation in risking life and limb for the



Leanne Benjamin, a physically perfect — and brave — Anastasia, with Stuart Cassidy

sake of his physically draining choreography.

But the dramatic complexities of MacMillan's psychological explorations were too often overlooked in her reading on Monday night. Act II. in particular, found Benjamin looking as if she had forgotten the plot entirely. And, although she redeemed herself somewhat in Act III, her Anderson did not quite rise to the level of harrowing.

The rest of the opening night cast was uneven. Elizabeth McGorian oozed elegance as the Tsarina, and danced beautifully. But Christopher Saunders, as Nicholas II, was almost a blank slate. So was William Tuckett's Rasputin. who circled the royal family with all the menace of a parish priest. Mara Galeazzi was fluent and animated as the Tsar's mistress, despite some horrendous partnering problems with an ineffectual Bruce

JAZZ: The Cheltenham Festival upheld a rich tradition of solo brilliance, says Alyn Shipton

The major new commission of this year's festival began with a bang. Tommy Smith's Planet Wave for 12-piece band started with the big bang some 20 billion years ago and swept magisterially through time in ten movements linked to poems by Edwin Morgan. The scoring was accomplished, with some dazzling effects, including a passage for four flutes delicately poised over dulcet trombones and trumpets, and some alltoo-brief solo opportunities for trumpeters Guy Barker and Gerard

saxophonists Tim Garland and Smith

Smith's writing seemed strangely

anachronistic, echoing the third-

stream ideas of composers like William

Russo, whose Trilothons explored the

same prehistoric subject matter. Over-

all, Planet Wave lacked sufficient

variety to carry it through 90 minutes,

and it was further inhibited by Morgan

himself, delivering his poems with little

more sensitivity than if they had been

himself.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

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Bodies full of soul

the shipping forecast. Like the third- end, here reharmonised by Coltrane streamers before him. Smith's concep- into a bleak, unforgiving statement. tion suppressed his soloists' role, denying some of Britain's liveliest voices the chance to shine in a festival that was elsewhere a joyous affirmation of the rich jazz solo tradition. Saxophonists dominated the event. Presencer, flautist Stan Sulzmann and

with James Moody, Jackie McLean and Chico Freeman among the highlights. Holding his own in such august company was Britain's Alan Skidmore. in an impassioned tribute to the work of John Coltrane, Supported by Steve Melling on piano and the relentless power of Stephen Keogh on drums, Skidmore whipped a drowsy lunchtime crowd into submission with a blistering examination of Coltrane's core repertoire. In the middle of the set, Body and Soul made the first of a number of appearances over the week-

An hour or so later, Body and Soul with Tatum-esque runs and chromatics amid the steady tap of the audience's feet as part of Monty Alexander's virtuoso solo piano recital. When Body and Soul next reap-

peared, it became the high point of the festival. It was a major coup for Cheltenham to bring Johnny Griffin over from France to join an all-star British rhythm section for his first appearance here this decade. The surprise ingredient was drummer Steve Arguelles, also now a French resident, and appearing earlier with his own minimalist trio, the Recyclers. His eccentric solo on Griffin's Hot Sake was inventive even at the fastest of tempos, and there were grins all

round as pianist John Taylor and bassist Dave Green threw in their own inventions in the wake of Griffin's hellfor-leather playing. Yet, as a man who 🖟 grew up adoring Ben Webster, Griffin remains the supreme ballad player on tenor, his Body and Soul as exquisite, delicate and light as Skidmore's had been dark, brooding and stark.

As the sun set over the Georgian streets, the final set came from the Art Ensemble of Chicago, proving that yesterday's avant garde are the core of today's tradition. No drummer at the festival could match Famadou Don Moye for his robust confidence, let alone his shimmering blue suit and knee-high snakeskin boots, and Malachi Favors reminded us from behind his painted mask that he is one of the most powerful bassists in jazz. They closed the event on a bang even

greater than Smith's with a reminder that jazz is about more than composition, and that its heartbeat is the freedom of the soloist and the stimulus of collective improvisation.

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THEATRE 1

National scene change: why the Olivier has been transformed into a theatre in the round



THEATRE 2

Alex Jones's distressing but powerful Noise is premiered by the Soho Theatre





RISING STAR

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THEATRE: Andy Lavender learns how the Olivier was metamorphosed into a theatre in the round. Plus reviews

Cruel but honest

BACK in 1967 the thugs who stoned a baby to death in Edward Bond's Saved did not get off scot-free. One of them went to prison amid offstage displays of public fury. As his subsequent descent into raging Marxism showed, Bond was far from pro-police. Indeed, he pretty clearly regarded them as the lackeys of an Establishment ultimately responsible for the very existence of stone-throwing babykillers. But it did not occur to him that the laws against violence and murder could not and would not be enforced.

Thirty years later, all of those baby-killers would have remained at large and continued to terrorise a community too frightened, apathetic or callous to call the cops. At any rate, that is the inference of Alex Jones's strong, distressing play. True, the violence in Noise is a bit less extreme than in Saved, and its prime victim two months from being born;

> Noise Soho Theatre

but if you asked me which urban jungle I would rather inhabit, I would take Bond's south London over Jones's Black Country.

For the first act the subject seems to be the one baidly invoked by the play's title. What should Samantha Edmonds's Becky and Graham Bryan's Dan, the teenage couple awaiting the arrival of their baby, do about the awful rock music that pounds out nightly next door? Again and again they put off confronting their neighbour, but end up complaining to their landlords, a somewhat convenientineffective housing association. That is a mistake, given that the hi-fi belongs to Andrew Tiernan's Matt.

Noise has its weaknesses. Shouldn't Dan and Becky, coming from a part of town where a family was firebombed for grassing to the fuzz, be less cheerily innocent and more streetwise? But Jones avoids the more predictable dangers. Matt could be a melodramatic psychotic, created for the sake of a lot of cheap second-act tension. Well, he probably is psychotic and he does drum up tension. but behind his mood-swings there is a plausible person: sometimes self-hating, always self-pitying, and capable of convincing himself he has been plunged into a world packed with people denying him his rights, such as playing very loud music at 2am.

A woman in the front row walked out of the first night and I could not blame her, for at that moment Matt was waving a knife at Becky's private parts. But Noise is not exploitative, and glib only when Matt offers his own gloss on one of Mrs Thatcher's dicta: Society doesn't exist any more - s'true, s'official." There's no need for out-ofcharacter point-making. What Jones and Mark Brickman's fine cast shows us is unsettling



Olivier Theatre takes shape as a theatre in the round - or, to be more accurate, ellipse

I'ough techno assault

what you would expect to be shed at any artistic endeavour, but to extract those selfsame bodily fluids from the audience as they enter the arena is to turn the whole notion of "performance" on its head. Yet that is one of the head-expanding introduc-tions on offer at the Old Fruitmarket to entice, bemuse, and amuse us at the start of the latest of Nacionale Vite Activa's high-tech theme park assaults on the senses. Interaction is the buzz word here though, as we are invited to apply for a passport into a brand new nation state or be interviewed about our innermost desires as roving cameras transmit the results onto massive screens to form a communications collage.

BLOOD, sweat and tears are

Things begin properly and BENEDICT appropriately enough with a big bang, signalling an exVirtual World Orchestra

Glasgow

hilarating evening of sensory overload and New Age evolution set to a non-stop electronic pulse beat. Robotic mosquitoes dance from the rooftop while giant balloons that could have rolled out of the 1960s cult TV series The Prisoner descend from the ceiling, one of them bursting like a blister to reveal its creator. Rap poet Dael Orlandersmith offers a human face alongside a cautious critique of the technological revolution: in the beginning

was the word, after all. Like a post-modern circus freak, performance artist Stellarc, wired for sound and everything else besides, gives

an involuntary dance routine dictated by whoever's pushing the button on the Internet. A rhetorical address from Slovenian art terrorists NSK invades the space with ambiguous pomp and circumstance before ten drummer boys and girls barge in, kicking things

up a gear and getting every-

body moving. It is slick, seductive, and manipulative. Crucially, though, because of the sheer democracy of the media embraced, it is refreshingly critical of its own territory. The director/producer Angus Farguhar has blown minds and circuits, banging his own drum with military precision and an instinctive feel for spectacle ever since his days with the iconoclastic metal bashers Test Department. His love affair with technology has been a gradual and natural progression, as he wonderfully oversteps the mark every time. Making connections is the key to it all here, with a form of industrial tribalism forged out of club

culture at its heart. Familiar elements of trendy, pre-millennium zeitgeist fever abounds, as everything bar the virtual kitchen sink is thrown into a great big digital melting pot, simmering slowly until it erupts into a full-on club experience melidown. And as it mixes interviews recorded earlier in with the heats, it suggests that what we are hearing really are songs

for a future generation.

Yet kidology and false optimism are at play here too, making one wonder how far we have to go to reclaim the natural high. Bigger is not necessarily better. Then again, somebody probably said much the same thing after the invention of the wheel. For the forseeable future anyway, it seems with techno, techno, techno in the front line of this brave new world, there really are no limits. Virtually, anyway.

NEIL COOPER

Eyre takes his seats on the circle line

ing Canute sat on-his throne on the beach, looked out to sea and commanded the waves to come no further. We know what happened next. Richard Eyre, the director of the National Theatre, sat in his office contemplating his largest auditorium. the Olivier, and commanded that it be transformed from a thrust-stage venue into a theatre in the round. If you have ever visited the Olivier, you

will appreciate the audacity. True, the theatre's 1,200 seats are arranged in a tiered semicircle rather than in straight lines. But the building's concrete walls angle towards the stage like the sides of a huge arrowhead. True, the country has successful theatres in the round in the Stephen Joseph Theatre at Scarborough and the Royal Exchange, Manchester. But these were purpose-built, whereas the Olivier is loosely modelled on the arena at Epidaurus in Greece, and has a deep playing area and a curved thrust. Eyre's mission, however, was to "liberate the space" and he briefed Annie Gosney and Tom Richardson, the Olivier's production manager and her assistant, to do just that. A year later, they

have nearly turned the tide. "We did a lot of sitting in here," says Gosney, reclining in one of the lilac seats of the erstwhile auditorium. "thinking, 'How on earth ...?' We kept it on the drawing board for six months before we could even start modelling it." At which point a Heath Robinson approach seemed the most obvious to demonstrate the project's viability.

theatre itself with a collection of stepladders, old chairs and towers and brought people from all the departments in the building to see it. That was really good, because they could visualise what it would be like. We went through an unbelievable roster of famous directors, all looking at the proposal. When people heard the idea, they thought it was dreadful. Then, when they came to see the proposals, they

were very positive about it." Which is why the theatre has recently been echoing to the bang of hammer and the screech of jigsaw. The transformation is profound. Making a theatre in the round defies the building's architecture and has involved all manner of technical adjustments.

Rob Barnard. the head of sound, explains that the wall at the back of the stage normally reflects sound into the auditorium. Now it is covered with absorbers. New reflective surfaces have been hung above the playing area. In addition a ring of microphones and speakers above the stage provide active sound enhancement". Meanwhile the lighting rig has been reconceived to illuminate the actors from all sides.

The stage has been built out into the first three rows of the old auditorium, and a curved seating block added at the back. There are extra rows of seating alongside the concrete jaws at the front of the auditorium and in the small

ly occupied by musicians. The entire circle will be closed off, which reduces the seating capacity by a third. The new shape, it has to be said, is not truly in the round, being more of an ellipse, with the audience thinner at either end. "Well, it's 'in the egg'," Gosney says.

She stresses that all this effort has been expended not to satisfy a last folly of the out-going director but to provide a kit of parts" which will always be available for future

seasons in the round. Indeed the **6** For the project would not have received the green light without first time the agreement of Trevor Nunn, the the space is incoming director. It will certainly embraced give the venue another set of opby the tions. Theatre in the audience 9

> tations. It is less suitable for productions which benefit from structural sets. It denies you the opportunity to fly in large objects or items of scenery, or to organise the stage in a painterly way. Instead, it throws great emphasis on the actors themselves. It is by nature intimate and enclosed and - in line with the principles of the circus or the bullring - invites continual shifts in the staging.

round has its limi-

It is said that, when the director Peter Brook comes to a new space, he asks where its centre is. Not its dead centre, you understand, but its hot spot. "We have managed to get that spot to be the centre of the new stage area." Richardson

hopes, which will be exploited by the two shows that constitute the Olivier's first season in the round. Jeremy Sams is to direct a production of Peter Weiss's play Marat/Sade. which is set in the bath house of an asylum. Photographs of the model suggest that Stephen Brimson Lewis's design makes much of a circular walkway suspended above the stage. The season opens, however, with a production of Bertolt Brecht's The Caucasian Chalk Circle, directed by Theatre de Complicite's Simon McBurney. You can see the logic of the pairing: Brecht's great parable play in the hands of one of British theatre's most gifted mavericks. Complicite's fluid style, reliant on props and performers rather than sets, promises to lend itself to the new arena, circu-

The production is designed by Tim Hatley, who has come up with a simple, Islamic-style floor (the play is set in Georgia) and a canopy which covers the audience. The Olivier in its usual format is notoriously difficult to design for, with its cavernous depths and wide open spaces. "I have to say," Hatley says, "I would usually cower away from the thought of doing anything in here. But because it's in the round. I've had none of those fears. For the first time I feel the space is being embraced by the audience. You feel there's a focus; you really think something's going to happen there and you want to watch. I'd be very surprised if it didn't work."

lar, egg-shaped or what you

● The Caucasian Chalk Circle previews from Friday and opens on

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CHANGING TIMES

NIGHTINGALE GREAT BRITISH HOPES Rising stars in the arts firmament PAUL GLADSTONE REID

Age: 27. Profession: Composer and songwriter. Royal premiere: Prince Edward will be in the audi-

ence at the Albert Hall on April 24, when hundreds of 14 to 25-year-old singers. dancers and musicians launch into the first performance of Miracles. What can we expect? "Mir-

acles is a 50-minute operacum-oratorio-cum-musical exploring the cultural and social influences that affect young people growing up."

Epic scale: Scored for full archestra, electronic ensem-African percussion and rock band, backed by a 500-voice choir and a dance troupe, Miracles follows II archetypal

characters. "Each one has his or her personalised sonic world, and the dancers reflect that with a different style of movement."

Track record: At 17, he founded the I5-piece Fante Jazz touring orchestra. At 18, he was much in demand as a solo pianist. At 23, he helped to set up the Axiom Foundation, with "a uniquely holistic approach" to music. Other credits include a rock opera, War Function, and a string quartet premiered in 1995 by members of the

London Sinfonietta. House of chords: When he was seven, his father, a Jamaican-born architect. started teaching him guitar at the family home in Sheffield. "We would listen to everything. The variety of



styles I work in has its roots in that experience."

Other influences? Schoenberg, John Cage and Cecil Taylor, the pianist and professor at the New England Conservatoire. "He opened my eyes to a world of poetry. music and movement."

Sound ideas: "I don't believe in any kind of musical orthodoxy. Whatever sound I want to make. I'll make it."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL

Slip of the tongue beats the soundbite

BRENDA

MADDOX

unday night's BBCl debate among the three would-be Chancellors of the Exchequer proved that a presidentialstyle television match should never happen here. You can't leave out the Liberal Democrats, yet three's a crowd. You can't have them in if you want a real fight between real contenders.

This may be a good time to dismiss another supposed American electioneering threat: the soundbite. Actually, there's nothing American about these. "You've never had it so good" was certainly home-grown. But good soundbites are rarer than you think. Watch any evening's news. Spot the spin-doctored bright phrases, the painful alliterations, the clumsy metaphors, then see how they fail to make the papers next day.

It's almost enough to make you

feel sorry for the politicians. A few little words blurted out by accident are another matter. If only Tony Blair could take back "like an English parish council". He can't He said them, in an interview with *The Scotsman* about the proposed devolved parliament for Scotland. The Scottish Labour Party is in uproar, the Tories gleeful, all because Mr Blair tried for a homely simile to explain something that, for the moment, is better left vague.

Elections make Freudians of us all. The

is the trophy we crave. Politicians know this. Journalists know this. That is why they are natural adversaries in any interview. They have conflicting aims. The clash is all the more bitter in the broadcast media than in the press because it is being played against the clock. It is hopeless for broadcasters to persuade politicians that they have been fairly treated on air. Candidates for public office will never accept that some issues are newsier than others. What's more, they have been trained never to give a direct answer, to try to slip in

chance remark that reveals the truth within

more words than the time allows, and to keep talking until forcibly interrupted. In the ensuing clash of voices, they trust that the well-bred British audience will blame the interviewer for bad manners. The popularity of virtuoso interrupters such as the BBC's Jeremy Paxman shows

that this trust is as out of date as queueing for buses. Today's audience is grateful to the voice that cuts in to stop the waffle. It is more likely to take against the politician who greedily insists "Just let me finish..." than against, say, John Humphrys, with his "Well, make it quick then." It does not help the uneasy relations between the two breeds that politicians still tend to look down on journalists as a lesser species. Interviewers never call politicians by their first names. But a polite "Tell me, Minister.." will be invariably answered by a matey, "Well, John", or "Jeremy", "Jim", or "Sue".

Now that the BBC's Martin Bell has crossed the great divide and is turning himself from a reporter into a politician l look forward to seeing him handle a needling Paxman-type question about his qualifications as a legislator. But my question is different. What is wrong with BBC News and Current Affairs that they cannot find active duty for their best people? Not only Bell, but Paxman and Kale Adie are under-used, and the premature depar-ture of Mark Tully still rankles.

Our chief public service broadcaster appears to be so conscious of its dependence on the goodwill of politicians that it feels it must play over-safe at election time - even at the risk of boring the audience to death. We are getting endless extensions of the

news and election phone-ins. All the broadcasters are trying to lessen the boredom by interviewing the voters: a mistake.

If there is anything more boring than a politician, it is the voter-inthe-street, chosen from a barrelful of stock characters: a yobbo in jeans, a Mrs Merton, a pair of smart young women carrying briefcases and, from time to time. an outspoken supporter of the Referendum Party. Even worse are those studio discussions

where suspiciously crisp ques-tions are read from little pieces of paper by seemingly random members of the audience. The performance is about as spontaneous as King Lear.

hat is the opposite of soundbite? Manifesto. You have to look long and hard through the voluminous fine print of the main party manifestos to find any reference to media policy. Fair enough. There cannot be a single vote to be swayed by a stand one way or another on any media issue.

But British television will be profoundly affected by the next government, whatever it may be. The BBC's current licence fee agreement runs out in April 2002. Well before then, the government of the day will have to decide whether to extend this quirky but effective form of finance. Should the BBC he privatised? Converted into a subscription service? And can any government resist for more than a year or two the temptation to sell off Channel 4? (Meivyn Bragg of LWT informs me that he has been wrongly listed among supporters of Channel 4's privatisation.)

On the two phone-ins I participated in last week about the new Channel 5, a common fear among callers was that we face a future of hundreds of indistinguishable channels. "Not as long as the BBC is supported by the licence fee" was my answer. Yet only the Liberal Democrats have made a manifesto commitment to maintaining it. What about the other two main parties?

THE LISTENER

We are amused at the Palace

IT MAY not have been much in evidence at his earnest press conference on Monday, but Martin Bell, the former BBC war correspondent who has offered to stand for Parliament, does have a penchant for the droll. So bored was he some years ago covering a tour to Canada by the Prince and then Princess of Wales that he decided to deliver his report in verse. Even the Palace was amused, we hear.

MIXED news emerges from some of the first independent research on Channel 5. While 100 per cent of the 867 people within the Channel 5 catchment area who were questioned last week by Western International Media, the media buying and planning agency, said they had heard of the station, more than 4 in 10 people groused about the lousy picture. Ivor Hussein, research director of WIM. says: "Forty-three per cent complained of poor picture quality, and of those 65 per cent said that it would prevent them from further viewing."



Anderson turns to TV; Clark faces Parliamentary Pete

Aerial installers must be rubbing their hands with glee.

Babe watch

THE ATTEMPT by the Baywatch babe Pamela Anderson-Lee to become a movie star fizzled out with her action film, Barb Wire, sinking faster than a lead balloon. So it comes as no surprise that her reps are off this week to the giant Nip TV market in Cannes, France, to see if they can find international backing for a big new television series for her. While Baywatch looks

actually funded primarily with backing from ITV and Germany's Kirsch Group.

AS THE general election looms, Chris Wright, the en-tertainment millionaire who owns the London music station Heart 106.2FM, faces an

The station has decided to field its own candidate in the Kensington and Chelsea constituency against the Tory charmer Alan Clark. A member of the breakfast show crew volunteered and obligingly changed his name to Parlia-

festo is suitably loony. As a resident of Kensington and Chelsea himself, Wright now faces the dilemma of whether to back his own man or to follow his conscience.

Survival tips

THE PRESS pack put out by Unesco to mark World Press Freedom Day on May 3 makes grim reading. In 1996 between 40 and 50 journalists or other media professionals were muralled in the course of their work. There has been a rise of violence against journalists by drug traffickers and organised criminals or by groups professing extremist religious or political ideas.

Unesco has produced a pocket survival guide for reporters in the field containing tips on how to avoid mines. booby traps, snipers and am-bushes. The booklet also has advice for dealing with handto-hand confrontation with an attacker (Do not let your hands dangle") and for hostages ("Try not to believe threats of execution").

NO SOONER had Robert Snell, the most put-upon hus-band in the Radio 4 soap The Archers, been offered a job in Grimsby, then offers of help started flooding in to the BBC. These include an invitation to Lynda Snell from Jane

Indreland, president of the Humberside International Women's Club, soliciting her help in running the group's next Christmas bazaar. "This area is not the cultural backwater that many people imag-ine," Ms Indreland enthused.

So excited about the Snells' possible arrival was Councillor Steve Norton, chairman of the North East Lincolnshire Council's Economic Development Committee, that he issued an immediate press statement. "North East Lincolnshire is a centre of excel-lence in the food and chemical sectors of industry. I am sure Robert and Lynda. Snell would find Grimsby a pleasant place to live and work," he gushed.

Forced out

THE SACKINGS continue at Al Fayed's weekly pamphlet, Punch. Previous casualties of his hire-and-fire policy include high-profile editors and columnists such as Peter McKay, Julie Burchill and Peregrine Worsthorne. Now the purge has been extended to the more innocuous ranks of the subeditors. Last week, two of them suddenly found themselves without jobs. "It was quite extraordinary." an insider tells The Listener. "They were given five minutes to clear their desks."

The power and the influence

IS ADVERTISING more influential than politics? Does it have the power to

shape society more than politicians? This was to be discussed on March 24 at a debate in the House of Commons organised by the institute of Practitioners in Advertising. The talk did not take place because Parliament went into recess, but the issue is a lasting preoccupation.

Winston Fletcher, former chairman of the Advertising Association (AA), believes he and his colleagues are, indeed, most powerful. "Advertising is part of the customer-orientated business system which is increasingly diminishing politicians powers to control economies," he says. "What consumers want and what global companies provide frequently override the decision of politicians."

On a micro level, Mr Fletcher adds, advertising persuaded people to wear their seat belts, raised the issue of

ADVERTISING drink-driving, built awareness of UK charities and brought state privatisa-

tions to the attention of the nation. Roger Holland, chief executive of the Joint Industry Committee for Regional Press Research and one of the participants lined up for the debate, says: *Real public sector influence is wielded by bureaucrats, not politicians, but what really affects society now is the private sector, which is fuelled by

advertising." However, Hugh Burkitt, chairman of Court Burkitt and another advertising practitioner who was scheduled for the debate, disagrees. "Advertising is just about selling brands and gaining market share," he says. "That is its primary job. It is extremely expensive, it is heavily censored and it borrows from other cultures. In other words, it

doesn't set the agenda or shape society:

Mr Burkitt says advertising only follows business decisions. Despite the effectiveness of last year's BT campaign, that advertising did not create the telephone network. It was the politicans who opened BT up to competition, then the advertising men took over," he says. On the other hand, there is much

statistical evidence to suggest that in countries where tobacco advertising has been banned, there has been no drop in smoking. Industry estimates indicate that Norway has the highest population of teenage smokers in the whole of Europe, yet it outlawed cigarette advertising in 1975. Jonathan Bullock, head of public

affairs at the AA, is similarly dismis-

ing may affect brand choice but that is really all," he says. "Politics sets the laws within which advertising and all

commercial activity operates."

Mr Fletcher believes that the burgeoning economic power of con-sumers to choose what they want and to ensure that companies provide it is "a great manifestation of personal freedom. The power of the market-place exemplified by advertising provides most people with wealth and economic freedom, and the growth of material wealth is almost an unqualified good."

Mr Bullock adds that "because we live in a democracy it is fitting that politics should hold the greater power. That is what the people vote for. There has to be a democratic accountability for all business and commerce."

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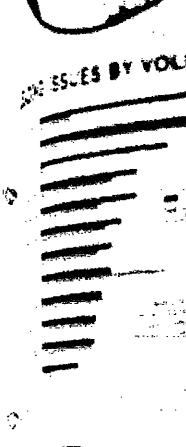
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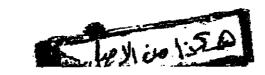
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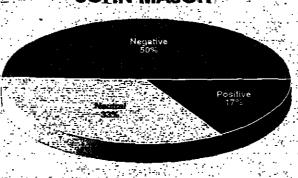








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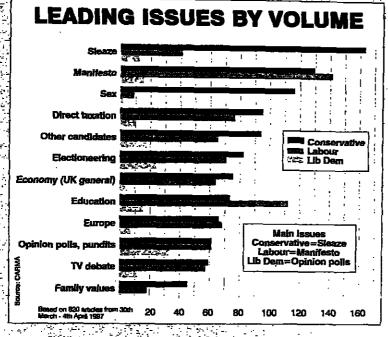
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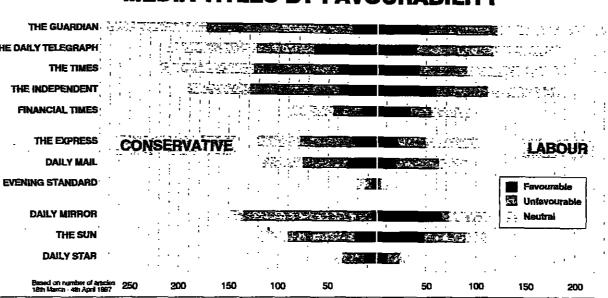


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MEDIA TITLES BY FAVOURABILITY



COVERAGE

How Tony Blair won the battle for the front page

Brian MacArthur reports on a transformation in the Tory press

general election is already setting one notable record. As Tony Blair tacks almost daily away from the party of Clause Four, Labour is getting its fairest treatment from Fleet Street for 50 years.

At least three companies. MORI, CARMA International and CMS:Precis, are monitoring the national daily and Sunday papers and measuring the tone, prominence and placement of election reports.

Their studies — and CARMA has now researched 2,195 articles since March 18 confirm that Tony Blair has consistently outperformed

fter three weeks, the John Major in the battle for headlines that help new Lab-

> Even in the week after he announced the election, 50 per cent of the coverage devoted to Major was negative, compared with only 17 per cent that was positive, according to CMS. Against that, only 20 per cent of the coverage of Blair was negative and 41 per cent was positive. Still more pleasing for the Labour spindoctors, given the treatment of Neil Kinnock's Labour Party in 1987 and 1992, when the Tory tabloids continually dumped on Labour, was that almost four in ten reports were judged neutral in their impact.

Sex and sleaze, the issue that refused to go away in the first three weeks of the campaign and which returned to the news agenda on Sunday when Martin Bell announced he would stand against Neil Hamilton in Tatton, is obviously the issue that has had most effect on the coverage of One in three of the articles in

judged 65 per cent positive for Labour, against 34 per cent for

the Tories and 1 per cent for the Liberal Democrais.

the first week of the campaign was devoted to sleaze, against 20 per cent on economic issues and 15 per cent each on education and employment. It was the same story two

weeks later, according to CARMA, which shows in a study of 820 articles last week. that 279 were on sex or sleaze and the Tories, compared with 129 on the Tory manifesto. Labour scored 141 articles on its manifesto - and only 50 on sleaze (most directed at the

Apart from Blair, Gordon Brown is the Labour politician who has received the biggest coverage, followed by John Prescott, Robin Cook. David Blunkett, and campaign manager Peter Mandelson, the five men most involved with Blair in preparing the manifesto.

At this stage of the 1992 election, when Labour was outnumbered by three to one in Fleet Street, Roy Hattersley, as deputy leader of the Labour Parry, was accused of "lying in his teeth" by The Sun for daring to suggest that the conduct of the Tory press towards Labour was a crime against a free society. He had said that the Tory tabloids were conspiring with the Tory party to create rather than report the news. Yet in 1997 the Tory tabloids

are giving Labour a fair run so fair that there is a growing sense of impotent frustration among the few national newspapers now carrying the loyalist flag for the Tories. As Trevor Kavanagh point-

ed out in The Sun. the announcement that Martin Bell was standing against Neil Hamilton in Tatton was superbly timed. It was released Street went to press and succeeded in wiping Labour U-turns off the front pages. So furious was The Daily Telegraph that it devoted most of its opinion page yesterday to attacks on media manipulation of election coverage.

Media power in the 1990s was comparable to the ascent of the unions in the 1970s, declared Paul Johnson as he denounced the "hysterical fury" in some newspapers, character assassins" at The Sun and News of the World, and media "tyranny".

ohnson's target was the liberal press - but it is not only the liberal press that considers that the conduct of Neil Hamilton is a serious rather than a side issue. The Sun, Daily Star, Daily Mail and The Times as well as The Guardian and The Mirror - all devoted leading articles yesterday to urging Tatton to dump him so that the issue of sleaze could be cleared from the election

agenda. What a difference Blair has made. That is precisely the accusation that Johnson and William Rees-Mogg in The Times are now making against The Sun for its supfrom the Right. The fairer ride that Blair is

getting from the tabloids was shown last week after the publication of the Labour manifesto. Blair's "Trust Me" pledge made the main front page headline in The Times, The Guardian and The Sun and was chosen for the main inside page headlines in the Daily Mail and The Mirror.

Note that the story of the manifesto was inside the Mail - as it was in The Express. Neither of middle England's two Tory tabloids featured the manifesto on the front page. Spin-doctors usually want to see their best stories on front pages. At this election, Labour's bowlers will be delighted that the Mail and Express relegated the story

That fairer coverage is again confirmed by CARMA. In its reporting of Labour, The Express. for example, has published 21 articles that were favourable. 28 that were unfavourable and 54 considered neutral. For The Sun, the score is 48 favourable, 41 unfavourable and 30 neutral - a huge difference in approach from the past two

According to CARMA, the papers with the most balanced coverage so far have been The Times, The Independent, Financial Times and The Express, each with a tilt to Labour, mainly because of the sleaze issue. For the record, the scores for The Times so far are Labour: 42 favourable, 48 unfavourable, 96 neutral; Tory: 39 favourable, 85 unfavourable and 97 neutral.

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Danger, children viewing

re some television programmes made for children "stealing their innocence", as the Daily Mail accused the controversial Love Bites (LWT/Granada)? The worry is not new. Children's television viewing has long provoked high anxiety.

Parents are naturally worried about the secret moments children spend alone with their television sets. We are hearing about a threat to childhood itself. But the dangers came from another quarter altogether. While the perennial problem of teenage sexuality preoccupies the commentators, it may well be that the future of all children's television in its present form is under threat.

Our familiar television environment is changing fast and will deeply affect children's programming. After the launch of Channel 5, as the last conventional tional terrestrial channel, our rapidly multiplying cable and satellite channels will soon be joined by an as-yet unknown number of digital channels.

More television, especially more for children, is not in itself a bad thing. The problem is that more channels will mean that each will get a smaller share of a finite audience and necessarily smaller

It could be that we will lose the

Fears over Love Bites mask a threat to children's TV itself, says Patricia Holland

programmes we love as well as those, such as Loves Bites, which we love to hate. Domestically produced children's programming, protected by a public service environment, is having the rug pulled from under its feet.

From quality dramas to innovative cartoons, the quality and diversity of our present range of children's programmes was celebrated at Sunday's awards ceremony at the British Academy for Film and Television Arts (Bafta).

But budgeting constraints are already beginning to bite. Greater competition is putting pressure on broadcasters to deliver bigger audiences rather than risk developing new programme ideas. Factual programmes such as the Balta winner Wise Up (Carlton, for Channel 4) may come under threat.

The substantial budgets made available for programmes such as Telerubbies the BBC's delightful new

series for very young children, will no longer be available. An innovative and popular drama series such as the Baftanominated Demon Headmaster (BBC). which was previously made in runs of six, may now be required to expand to 13 or even 36 episodes, weakening the storyline and with less value placed on production.

Already children are offered more easy-to-watch, bought-in programmes from America. The drive to find commercial funding means that programmes are often toy-based - little more than extended commercials for marketing spin-offs.

There are Thatcher's Children, as the title of a recent book calls them, trailing the legacy of an exploitative market philososphy which reduces them to consumers. If television is to serve their needs, they should be recognised as a separate audience to whom broadcasters

have a special responsibility.

And it will include programmes that are not always acceptable to adults. As well as the educational and the entertaining, it should indulge children's taste for the scary, appeal to the cruder side of their humour, and recognise their increasing desire to leave childhood

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Please reply enclosing full C.V. and salary details quoting Ref. BG776 to: Ben Dixey, Dixey Robb Associates, 17 City Business Centre, Hyde Street, Winchester, Hampshire S023 7TA Tel: 01962 877822

Local Government Association

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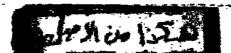
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Do you have good manners?

Susan Gray on office etiquette -

from meeting visitors to telling the lothario in accounts to push off

obody is born knowing good eti-quette, it has to be learni, says Judi James, the author of The Office Jungle: the Survivors Guide to the Nylon Shag Pile Life and former model.

Secretarial staff are often involved in meeting and greeting clients and guests, so it's important they feel confident in what they're doing," she says. "I compare meeting and greeting to ballroom dancing: someone has to take the lead and it should be the secretary

Ms James says guests like to know the name of the person showing them the way to the meeting, so secretaries should follow the example of their American counterparts and have their own business cards to give out. The names and titles of visitors are also a contentious issue, and Ms James urges caution. "Err on the side of formality and use titles and second names first of all. Being asked to change to a first name is fine, but being told to use a more formal address is a reprimand." Of course some visitors make it

easy: Lord Archer famously shakes hands saying: "Call me

Lifts and swipe cards are another sticky issue. "Some company cultures women have precedence on entering and leaving lifts, so men have to do the paso doble inside the car to make sure women can get out first," Ms James says. Companies should have

clear etiquette policies, because the increasing blandness and uniformity of services offered by high street names makes them indistinguishable in the public's mind.

"In the faceless 1990s, good personal contact is important. Modern, correct procedure has a terrific effect on a company's external image and customer service can be the only thing that marks it out from its competitors," Ms James says.

Robert Elms, the writer and broadcaster, is also a champion of good manners. "As life becomes more aggressive, manners become even more important. In fact, society's only salvation is to have a code of being decent to each other."



Mr Elms believes good manners are not a sexist issue and the workplace should evolve a code of behaviour towards people rather than gender, "If see someone with a heavy box I'll open the door for them regardless of their sex, and it's the same with holding the lift. I hope that people would do the same for me," he says.

Good manners are part of the larger context of good communication, and vital to a company's profitability, Freda Gardiner, chairwoman of the Secretarial Development Network, says. "Managers and secretaries need to communicate well or teamwork breaks down. Both roles are vital for organisational success, so sec-

retaries and managers should treat each other with respect." Ms Gardiner suggests that managers should show respect to support staff by making time to talk to them on a regular basis. "Ideally there should be a weekly debrief on the respective managerial and secretarial roles," she says. Managers who fail to treat

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secretaries with respect will end up with a demotivated office team, and are thus wasting the company's most valuable asset.

Being late or not showing up for appointments is the height of ill manners. It says to the other person that their time is of no value." Ms Gardiner continues. She says

even ten minutes late for a meeting, they should let the other side know,

Secretaries should show respect for their work by dress-ing professionally. Temps who are working at an investment bank one week and an environmental charity the next, are advised to dress formally on day one, wearing a suit and make-up, and then to dress more casually if the employ-er's culture allows. It's better be over-dressed than underdressed, especially for women wanting to break out of the secretarial role. Dress for the job you want, not the

Professional dress generates respect and makes secretaries less likely to be taken advantage of, according to Ms Gardiner. Wearing a miniskirt and low-cut blouse shows how you feel about yourself." Judi James says that workplace physical contact is unlikely to go beyond a handshake these days because the fear of sexual harassment is taken so seriously.

Ms Gardiner adds that if someone in the office does overstep the mark, "tell them you feel uncomfortable early on, before it becomes an

Secretarial Development Network 01530 223036; The Office Jungle, HarperCollins £5.99.

A note for vour diary

THE TIMES Crème '97, the annual exhibisistants, PAs, office managers and ad-ministrators, is being held from June 11 to 13 at Olympia 2 in London.

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Il you are looking for an oppertunity to most away from secretarial, join Footon's Property Management Department. Run your own Property Management section taking responsibility for section taking responsibility for 100 properties or more, in a progressive tast moving organization. Must be well cated, hard working, have a it sease of branear, south

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it wase, somes concern Abrasa, 183 Mount Street, London, W1Y SHE or

INTERNATIONAL PROCUREMENT COMPANY quines bright, self-mothe crystary/somin assistant Send CV to: HDP International Ltd., Dudle House, 169 Piccadity. London W1V 9DD.

Please reply with CV to Williams

DIRECTORS SECRETARY

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constance acceptant of requests
to work with two Directors.
Understanding of Word for
Windows is essential and a
leaseholde of Access Outshese
and Excel Spreadsheets on

25 and a Roy-esso. £20,000 - £22,500.

ROOMATTHETOP £25-30,000

The Manufact Disposor of this prestiplous City Institute in Society Personal Assistant with City One of Society Personal Assistant with City One of Society of Complex Issues. This is a necessary of pressures of complex Issues. This is a necessary of pressures of the workload states in the workload.

and numerous responsibilities. The MD has to helance the demands of clients and colleagues and you will have to ensure that his time is used as effectively as possible. You will need to be well presented, with a good educational background and preferably with financial sector experience. Skills 100/60.

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SHORTHAND SECRETARY/PA c£18,000

Supporting the Head of Human Resources and her essistent for this renowned Pic, this is a corporate role for a mature PA with first class skills. There is scope for involvement and personal contribution within this role, and fielson with a number of diverse company subsidiaries. 80 wpm+ shorthend essential,

PROGRAMME FINANCE SECRETARY c£16,500

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This is an involved position for a good secretary who loves working with figures. Running budgets for various productions for each individual department of this top broadcasting house and maintening contact with production co.'s, you will need to be a good coordinator, with confident liaison skills at all levels both internally.

Please call Caroline Foots, Kerry Baltand, or aroline Foote, Kerry Ballard, or Sheryll Karpel

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career moves

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ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

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Working in a fast-paced seles environment, this is superb opportunity for a highly self-motivated, organised and diplomatic office or facilities manager. Monitoring and standardising various procedures, this position requires a business-minded and analytical narrow who has excellent procedures, this position requires a business-minded and analytical person who has excellent communication skills and is able to present reports and arguments in a professional manner. This is a pivotal role providing much needed communication links between various departments within this international organisation, and therefore the ability to play along with a strong team is essential. Owning to the system-oriented environment, excellent IT literacy is essential. Pravious experience in sales and office management would be an advantage.

ease call Caroline Foote or Kerry Ballard.

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PUBLICITY CO-ORDINATOR

ortunity to work with a w spc opportunity to wan a warner among accessing company co-ordinating publicity towns for TV programmes, product menagement, programme is sunches and press conferences. As relevant experience in publicity, press, product agament or event organising preferrebly in TV/Flan environment preferred.

> **PA IN RETAIL OPERATIONS ¢£17.000**

involved and veried PA role which can be expanded and diversified to suit your needs! This operations-based coalidn will have you involved in vertous office memagement and plenning projects and will put your communication and flation stills to the test. Working within a large but teem-oriented company, this position will keep you on your toes! Shorthand/speed writing of 75+ wpm and good Excel skills essential.

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Do you want to work for a large successful lavestment Bank in a lively environment where your initiative and enthusiasse counts?

ting travel itinguries, monitoring expenses, client on, presentations and much much more.

Skills required are: GCSE/O Level Maths & English Windows knowledge, 2 years seem confident and professional outlook.

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Capital Markets
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Investment Mgt £20k £25k £20k £19k Admin Sec

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c£23000 + PACKAGE W.1

Administrator par excellence? International executive search company is offering a challenging role to a lynchpin' who'll organise the vital IT function at their HQ. Your duties will include handling internal IT queries from all European offices, organising in-house

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We need another great organiser here too. Operations Director of a luxury tood importer needs a secretary who'll use bags of initiative, plan ahead and think things through. A high calibre secretary is essential as your boss is frequently abroad - necessitating complicated travel plans - so he needs first class backup at base. Fast typing & computer literacy essential.

CHAIRMAN'S P.A.

CITY £25K + Good Bens

Charming, erudite Chairman, with a vast remit, seeks a first division P.A. to assist him.

Exemplary secretarial skills taken as read

(shorthand 90/100) you will thrive in a sometime: highly pressurised role where your strong administrative skills will be put to the test. Your

ability to prioritise whilst several projects run

As part of a Major City Organisation you will

possess the poise and confidence to liaise with high profile clients and Key Players within the Company. This is a strictly 1-1 format in a busy but rewarding role.

Tel. JOSEPHINE MORRISON on 01233 850700

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Interviews to take place at our offices in Harley St. W.1. where evening appointments are available, or in the City. (REC CONS).

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CITY £25K + Good Bens

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sometimes highly pressurised role where your strong administrative skills will be put to the test. Your ability to prioritise whilst several projects run simultaneously, is vital.

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-Coby Philips-

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Chairman of a leading Adventising Agency in W.L. requires a well organized & afficient "Righthand Person" If you am looking for a gliențing role, are pro-active & unflappable with min 60 wpm, SH of Spoodwaring please call us for further details.

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TO £24000

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Seriously successful and down-to-earth chartered surveyors need organising. Their business is expanding and they need a professional PA who can mastermind the office move, oversee equipment purchase, personnel matters and who has ideas for streamlining systems. You'll be a capable all-rounder who's at ease with important clients and the audio machinel Ane 24.

Bucks / Oxon

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If you live in the Buckinghamshire or Oxfordshire

If you live in the Suckinghamshire or Oxfordative area and want to work closer to home this might well be the opportunity you've been waiting for. Start-up situation, biotechnology company. You will have responsibility for the initial purchasing of all office fixtures and fittings plus word processors / computers and also hiring of support staff. You will be an enthusiastic and self-sufficient support to the Chief Executive assisting him in every severe of his working

enthusiastic and self-sufficient support to the Chief Executive assisting him in every aspect of his working life, the shility to forward plan and remain one step ahead is crucial. This is an excellent chance to be in at the beginning and should provide a great deel of satisfaction for a competent and experienced individual. An excellent salary is offered commensurate with ability and experience. Computer skills and shorthand essential.

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£24,000 - TELEVISION

An exciting opportunity to work at the heartbeat of

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to 2 key players the role will encompass much people

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£18-23k AAE + paid oft & exc. bens.

An excellent opportunity has ixisen within this prestigious Chobal campany for a top PA who enjoys variety and involvement. Dusies include loss of organising, especially social events and extensive travel and they management. The environment is professional but exciding and hertic, the stundards are high 5 GCSP's and a typing qualification but the rewards are excellent—career development, BUFA, PRF, paid overtime, medical, pension, subsidised restaurant, IPSTL, health clats.

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Superb opportunity to join a law firm recognised as one of London's Top S, situated in the heart of the City.

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in the City, Processial secolar. A=25 0171 493 2888

HERITAGE

CRUISE THE MED ASST. SHIPS PURSER

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ÆX. TAX FREE

ne Calest certain to presignous ce liner requirest as sax purser to join a super young tasas. Keybrd dills + either botal/front line reception/chilet exp. east langs ands. You must be complete + qualited fabricos opp. Age 23-32. unsellant start to join ship in both law. 5 month contract.

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Tempted to Temp?

Do you possess excellent skills (100/60 wpm).
 Ideallys Windows 95, including Excel and PówerPoint or Freelance.
 Do you enjoy a variety of short and long term assignments within leading companies?
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A top profile company based in Victoria is seeking a professional, polished PA, age 23-30, with finent French and rusty shorthand to assist a very busy Director. The position is varied and includes client contact, arranging travel itineraries, diary management and the usual secretarial duties. This is a role which is challenging, exciting and totally fulfilling, 55 wpm typing and W4W essential. Please call Gwen or fax CV to



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Excellent package

Boyce Recruitment specialises in the recruitment of skilled multilingual personnel to leading international organisations based in London. We are currently working towards Investors in beople and are committed to providing outstanding customer service. As part of our expansion plans we are looking to recruit two outning individuals with commercial arwanests to manage and develop our cuisting client base. Proven account management or experience in a target driven environment are essential. In return we offer an excellent package, long texts career prospects and commitment to rangoing training and development. For further details please call Samantha Judd in confidence on 0171 287 6060.

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Start work today in one of our busy and challenging secretarial assignments.

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£14,000 & Bens Covent Garden

An ideal opening for a college leaver or junior secretary ready to consolidate their skills. Working within the MD's offices, you will be assisting the senior secretary to look after a team of busy executives. This will include using your WP skills, arranging appointments, liaising at a senior level & having the confidence to take messages for the MD in his PA's absence. 'A' levels & secretarial course preferred, 50+ typing.

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c£25,000 Personal Secretary

Wealthy international businessman needs a personal secretary/assistant to organise him. This is a high profile, multi-faceted role in which you will be relied on to understand & anticipate your boss's varied needs, take control of the day-to-day running of his office & liaise at the highest levels on his behalf. You will be ultra professional, discreet & diplomatic & enjoy the challenge of coping on your own in a very demanding environment where no two days are the same. 50 typing.

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As a go-ahead, supportive, well educated 2nd jobber PA See + WP (early 20's) you will enjoy working with this small, friendly PR Co. Looking afte a Senior Exec. you will be involved in everything and learn about PR!

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c£17,000 p.a

For a bright, versatile carly/ndd 20's PA Sec + WP this mix of office measurement and marketing will be perfect. Lots of involvement to include laising with nedia and writing press releases. The sky's the lamit for a go-shead person!

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This exciting Resentive Scarch consultancy tends a polywhol estimated to work for 2 Senior Partners. You will be involved in all aspects of search and selection as well as marketing. You need may typing 40-year, initiative and drive to succeed in this persulve, ambitous environment.

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HIGH PROFILE

Do you want real involvement and responsibility? Dynamic and demanding boss is seeking a true PA to provide full admin and secretarial support. Liaising at very senior levels upon must have a received and secretarial support.

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Blue Chip Company based in WI requires a highly computer literate Secretary, 25-40, to join young, friendly team handling International affairs. Lots of presentation work, total involvement. Past audio and copy typing. You should have a flexible approach and excellent presentation, both self and world. Al telephone manner, able to prioritise, pro-active and sood sense of humatur. Please cell Flaine or fax CV in good sease of humaour. Please call Elaine or fax CV to

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Word Processing Manager £27K plus benefits Our client, a west end legal firm are seeking a

confident, self-motivated WP Manager. This is a hands-on role providing day to day management of a team of operators. You will be responsible for reviewing and monitoring work as well as organising the high level of admin involved in running a large department. The team will rely on you for guidance and support, including some typing when necessary. The · ideal candidate should have had some previous management experience and possess the essential qualities for a working team leader, plus fast accurate typing.

TEMP APPLICATIONS WELCOME.

And the Market Control of the Share 22019 of the Control of the Control of the Share 22019 of the Control of the Control of the Share 22019 of the Control of the Control of the Share 22019 of the Control of Control you like working in a busy environment

making sure that your boss arrives at all his meetings prepared. Managing Diaries, preparing presentations, providing full secretarial support. This is a very rewarding job vorking for an excellent company.

...please call Caroline on 0171 499 5881
Adecco Elite (Rec Cons)
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Elite

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you must have a proactive approach, excellent W4W, copy and audio, be highly organised and flexible.

This position is high profile & will involve complex diary & page 1975. travel arrangements. Can you meet the challenge? bons include PAID Overtime, STY, Pensions, Lunch etc. Call Lorrainte.

181 Oxford Street, W1R 1TA Fax: 0171 287 1060

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Young secretary looking for pace, pressure & the chance to establish a career in one of the City's most exciting organisations. Energetic and motivated with intilative to support a trienchy, busy team. You will be encouraged to take on responsibility and should have excellent communication skills - lots of client liaison. Good education and skills required plus solid work history. Call Cross Selection: 0171 377 5500 Face 0171 377 5599



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Anger Served and



CREME DE LA CREME

DESIGN £19,000

Join this highly successful international design led furniture company as PA to the MD which will involve you in PR, marketing activities, exhibitions and organising and co-ordinating VIP visits. Windows 95. 50wpm typing, shorthand useful.

> Please telephone 0171 495 2321. Elizabeth Hunt RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

TRUE PA £25,000

Based in Mayfair this 1:1 role will involve the total running of this busy chief executive's personal and business lives. Manage bank accounts the country home (including organising shoots). Totally autonomous position, 55wpm typing / 90wpm shorthand. Age 28 - 40.

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TELEVISION £24,000

This media conglomerate needs a professional energetic PA who enjoys liaising and negotiating a senior level. Located south of the river, this role will suit a self-starter with good shorthand and a flexible attitude. 55wpm typing, 90wpm shorthand, Windows liter

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to £21,000 + MS + Bens

A once in a lifetime opportunity! This high

profile Banking Organisation is urgently seeking

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The ideal candidate will be aged 25-40 with

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Jonathan Wren & Co Lid., No.1 New Street, Landon EC2M 4TP Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

and scheduling appointments.

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Of graduate calibre, your role will be to offer full support to the chairman of this manufacturing company based in North London. In addition to secretarial duties you will also be co-ordinating a complicated diary, fielding calls and acting in his absence. Powerpoint 80 / 50wpm.

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experience of interest only. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

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£20,000

Involvement and interest is offered by two

As their PA, you will know what is going on and

discuss matters with clients. Happy with the

variety of a smaller office and legal

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Design your own future as a member of Crone Carkill's edite temporary team. If you are a flexible Temp with good secretarial skills, 60 wpm typing slong with excellent Powerpoint and/or Freelance you could soon be earning up to £10 per hour (often £15 per hour for overtime) by working in assignments with our extensive client basemany of them thus chip companies. Our clients requirements are usury and varied and, whatever your resour for itemping, we're sure to have something that's right for you. Need snother reason to calif As a Crone Carkill temp you can be earning AIR MILES while you work. Call the West Bod Temp Team NOW on 0171 434 4512 to find our more.

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Managing Director of a shipping company

requires an Executive Secretary with good all

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essential, shorthand desirable. Role includes

arranging meetings, travel, accommodation

For Executive

Secretarial positions in The City, Tel: 0171 638 1666

senior level. W4W and Lotus 123 skills

and full diary management. Excellent

opportunity within very friendly company.

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these multiple and changing priorities you must be extremely polished and enthusiastic

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blue chip company would be preferable, as

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0171 437 6032.

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are shorthand and Microsoft Office.

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A varied and dynamic role as a Team Secretary

based in the heart of the City. Excellent provide and organisational skills are executed at you will be required to juggle a number of different casks at once and provide support to the Plant of Communications.

W.W.s. European Provenpoint an absolute must.

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or law CV to 0171 481 0125

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Excellent Salary + BenefitS

Senior VP Marketing, requires a top class secretary to work for this leading leisure group based at their corporate

Must be polished, well presented and have a strong

marketing background. 60wpm typing.

WAW, and Powerpoint essential.

on 0171 235 7114

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To enable you to meet the challenge of

Salary ~ c£20,000

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OUR RATES OF PAY ARE EXTREMELY COMPETITIVE

We are the market leaders in providing the City with secretarial staff. We are looking for candidates with experience in any of the above to introduce to our clients; Blue Chip Investment Banks, Integrated Securities Houses and Fund Managers, including institutions where we exclusively manage their temporary and contract vacancies on site.

If you are looking for a fresh start to your career for Summer '97, please come to our Secretarial Open Day on Thursday 17th April.

From 8.00am-8.00pm.

At: 41-42 London Wall, EC2M 5TB If you are unable to attend, please call us to arrange an alternative appointment on: 0171 638 7003

> 41-42 London Wall, London EC2M 5TB. TEL: 0171-638-7003, FAX: 0171-628-5057,

Office Manager

Salary - £20,000

High profile marketing company requires an experienced and adaptable Office Manager who will also be PA to the Managing Director. A mature, presentable candidate with the personality to work in this team orientated company is sought. Excellent Excel and W4W skills, 50WPM, audio skills and the ability to juggle tasks essential.



For Executive Secretarial positions in The West End, Tel: 0171 224 2820

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Proactive and highly efficient PA required to support this busy City executive. In addition to providing full secretarial support you will liaise extensively with clients and keep your boss briefed on internal affairs. Coming from a financial background you should have a mature and professional approach.



Standard Hours: 9-6. Skills: 60/W4W/Audio. call Vanessa. Please Mitchell on 0171 390 7000.

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£24,000 (+ Bens. Total Pkg c£30,000) PA with French to work closely with 2 very high profile young bankers. Based in sturning West End offices this is a fabulous opportunity to be totally pro-active, take on full responsibility for reporting, projects, managing the divisions admin systems, their secretaries, personnel issues, etc. For a full job spec call Emily Aldrich.

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Proactive secretary with excellent interpersonal skills required for important support role to fast paced team of consultants in WC2. Hectic, no two days the same.

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Pessoa, on Gran Geste, checks the fence is intact during his 1965 Derby success

Showjumping's falling popularity threatens Hickstead with extinction

names, of obscure unimportant villages, dingy areas of towns, that are rich with meaning in national life. Wembley, Wimbledon, Twickenham, Aintree, Henley, Badminton, Silverstone.

These names have a magical ring. "Headingley," I once said to a Leeds taxi driver. Whereabouts in Headingley?" What a question — but to him. Headingley was a place. To me and to the world, it is

So let us turn our attention to a small village in Sussex, just off the A23 and not far from Burgess Hill on the Brighton line. For some people, it is a place you pass on the way to Brighton; for others, it is the ultimate destination: Wembley, Henley, Jerusalem, Mecca.

The name of the place is Hickstead, and it is showjumping's ultimate point of arrival. And, strapped for cash and hammered by the departure of its sponsor, Silk Cut, Hickstead showground is threatened with closure. Hickstead cannot breathe any

Closure would be the flattening of the twin towers, the ploughing-up of Centre Court, the damming of the River Behind. Sharp is the stable lad

Thames at Temple Island. The Nations Cup event at the end of May must now be switched to the Royal Windsor Horse Show: Hickstead's two other international shows are also under threat. A small chunk of national life is likely to disappear.

Hickstead had always been a great and stress-free day out for families. It has also provided endless excellent sport. One of the great sporting stories of the previous year was the performance of Nelson Pessoa in the Hickstead Derby, which is showjumping's most terrifying event.

Pessoa, after winning the

team bronze medal at the Olympic Games as coach of the Brazil team, came to Hickstead as a competitor and, with his horse, Vivaldi, won it. Pessoa was 60, a man for four seasons if ever there was one. It was his third victory in the event and it came 33 years after the first. He had suffered a heart attack the previous year.

It was an extraordinary and delightful story, and one which inevitably touched the hearts of the horse-loving Brits. Nothing like a good horse story. Thus Phil Sharp becomes the latest great Brit-ish hero: The Lad Who Stayed SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

who looked after the Grand National horse, Suny Bay. He refused to evacuate when the IRA warning came. Suny Bay finished second. Let us hope that Sharp had the presence of mind to back him each-way. Horses touch British hearts

so it would be a strange thing if the nation were to allow one of the great horsey places to disappear. But that seems the most likely scenario. The Grand National course was for years threatened with disaster, every year just about to be sold as a housing estate, but there was so much fuss that, in the end, it was "saved

seems likely to go quietly. Strange, because showjumping is still an archetypal part of British life.

Now I am always suspicious of golden-agers: cricket were better when I were a lad. footballers did not spit, runners did not take drugs, and God smiled upon his sporting work every day. But the trouble with show umping is that it really did have a golden age. It was in the Sixties, and it

revolved around the soap opera of known equestrian and equine stars: a pantheon of rivalries. Annelie-Drummond-Hay, Harvey Smith, David Broome, Marion Coates, Merely A Monarch, Stroller, Vibart, Today's stars are not household names. even in their own households.

But the skill of the riders, the athleticism of the horses and the preparation of both have improved beyond mea-sure. The sport is ten times more difficult now, because the fences are utterly unforgiving. Lightweight poles, and the shallow cups on which they rest, mean that it is almost impossible to hit a

fence and get away with it. And yet the sport has lost its grip on prime-time television. With that loss go sponsors, money, public interest. The

stream to backwater; and somehow managed that in a nation of horse-lovers. Hickstead looks likely to be a major casualty.

I was recently a member of a working party to advise the British Show Jumping Association on what we thought had gone wrong - and how it might be put right. I hope some of our solutions are on the right track, and will help to get the sport back into its natural place as part of the consciousness of a horsey

I have trashed many a showjumping course myself. and know the joy of the all-ornothing -- generally nothing in my case - jump-off in which you chuck your heart over a fence and ask the horse to please go and catch it. It is a joy the whole nation knows vicariously.

We all know where it all went wrong -- when they started calling horses Sanyo Technology, and thereby trashed not the course, but the spectator's faith in the bond between horse and rider. But how can we put Humpty Dumpty together again? All the queen's horses haven't managed it so far, and the palace of Hickstead looks ripe



Thirty-one years later Vivaldi carried the popular Brazilian to his third win

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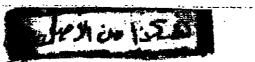
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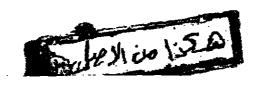
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RACING: BBC DELIGHTED AS 12 MILLION WATCH RESCHEDULED EVENT

Monday Grand National draws bumper audience

By our racing staff

THE BBC yesterday revealed that a "massive" audience of nearly 12 million watched its live coverage of the rearranged Martell Grand National. There had been fears that the race would lose its attraction after being forced to switch to a Spm slot on Monday because of Satur-

day's security alert.

However, the early indications from the British Audience Research Board are that nearly 12 million tuned into the BBCI coverage. That beats last year's figure of 11.2 million and makes the National the most-watched sports event on television this year.

Brian Barwick, head of televised sport at the BBC, said: This is a massive figure for 'a Grand Natonal rescheduled and restaged at such short notice. It underlines the importance of the event to the British viewing public, and we are delighted to have been able to bring the drama of this great event to the screen."

Charles Barnett, the clerk of the course at Aintree, said: "We are thrilled with the news of these truly exceptional BBC figures. They illustrate the support the Martell Grand National receives from the public, despite the race being restaged under such difficult circumstances."

Meanwhile, the race's winner, Lord Gyllene, is unlikely to run again this season. Although entered for the Stakis Casinos Scottish Grand National at Ayr, the nine-year-old is more likely to be rested until next season, when the Grand

National will again be his objective.

The trainer of Lord Gyllene, Steve Brookshaw, said: "He's walking around and very happy with himself. I would think that will be it for the season. He was entered for the Scottish National, but that was only a contingency plan."

Nonetheless, racegoers will have the chance to see Lord Gyllene next month. His owner, Stan Clarke, explained: "Lord Gyllene will parade at Uttoxeter on May 3. He's come out of the race fresh and sound, but he won't run again this term."

Seven Towers, the only horse to have beaten Lord Gyllene this year, is also unlikely to run again this season. His trainer. Mary Reveley, did not regret bypassing the National with her charge.
The National is the National and the winner jumped from sence to sence," she said. "It is a different course to everywhere else and you can never guess what might have happened if our horse had run - you'd have thought that Go Ballistic would beat Lord Gyllene on a

park course, but he was pulled up. "It is getting too dry for him now. Our gallops are becoming firm and everything will be too fast for him. He is a softground horse and owes us nothing."

John O'Shea put Go Ballistic's poor display at Aintree down to the effects of a hard season. The eight-year-old, sent off the 7-1 favourite, was always behind and eventually was pulled up at the secondlast fence.

Go Ballistic, close to the top of the National betting since his fourth in last month's Cheltenham Gold Cup, was having his seventh race of the season.

"He had been very consistent previously and yesterday was a typical end-of-season performance," O'Shea said. "It was just one race too many and he definitely won't run again this season. He was never going well and broke a blood vessel, though it's hard to say when. The only thing he did do was jump well."

The National runner-up, Suny Bay,

may try to go one better in another big

staying chase before the end of the season.

The Charlie Brooks-trained gelding, who was beaten 25 lengths, holds engagements this month in the Scottish National and the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown. Brooks's assistant, Ed James, said: "It all depends on the ground and how he comes out of the National." ☐ Rhydian Morgan-Jones was yesterday elected to the Industry Committee of the British Horseracing Board (BHB) to succeed Lord Swaythling as a BHB director and Industry Member for a term of four years with effect from June 7.



Steve Brookshaw poses with the Grand National winner, Lord Gyllene, back at his Shrewsbury yard yesterday

RIPON THUNDERER

2.10 Out Like Magic 2.40 Watch Me Go

3.40 Handsome Ridge 4.10 Augustan 4.40 Fooled You

5.10 Epic Stand

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3,40 HANDSOME RIDGE. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.40 Watch Me Go. 3.40 HANDSOME RIDGE (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

8 A . 23

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.10 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND SPA WELTER MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-0: £3,203: 5f) (14 runners)

101	m		BURNOEN DAYS (C Barber-Lorren) J Hetheston 9-0	
102	:14)		BURNIT YATES (1 Boay) M W Fasterby 9-0 G Parlon (S)	
103	(O)		DIAMOND STEVE (Diamond Recong) P Evans 9-0	
104	(12)		DURHAM FLYER (C Stevens) T Exsterby 9-0 M Block	
105	(3)	0	FIVE OF SPADES 20 (B Cassidy) D Michalls 9-0 Alex Greaves	
106	(10)		HAPPY DAYS (J Barrell) O Moffatt 9-0 Damen Moffatt (3)	
107	(13)	4	LAST KNIGHT 15 (W Ponsonby) M Chapmon 9-0 P P Murphy (5)	
108	(2)	0	PRINCE NECHOLAS 20 (Autóyn Saud) K Hogg 9-0	
143	(11)		CLUZ MASTER (Mrs R Heaton) E Viteymes 9-0 K fallon	
110	(7)		VET'S DECEIT (R Thompson) R Thompson 9-0	
111	(9)	53	BICHALONG 4 (Northgate Lodge) N. Bresse 8-9 G Bardwell	7
112	(4)		LAUREL PLEASURE (Lauret Lessne) & Berry 8-9 T E Durcan (5)	
113	{5 }	4	OUT LINE MAGIC 20 (Mrs E Danson) P Evans 8-9 J F Egan	E
114	(6)		PENNILESS (Consulato Ltd) N Timbler B-9 Kim Timbler	
BETT	VG: 15-8	au Ule	Magic, 3-1 Laurel Pleasure, 5-1 Last Knight. 7-1 Out Like Magic, 8-1 Outs Master.	10
	-			

1995: PROUD MATINE 9-0 J Talo (8-1) A Javet 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

2.40 markington selling handicap (£2,826: 1m 4f 60yd) (20 numers)

201	na.	005040-	SMIKE FOREVER 141 (Blandbord Threds) Miss & Kelleway 4-10-0 R Cochrone	-
202	(3)	0/05240-	WINDYEDGE 33J (J Cable) Mrs A Naughton 4-10-0 J Supple	₿B
225	70	241043	FORZAIR 8 (D,S) (Clayton Brokey) J.J. O'Neill 5-9-11 W. Ryan	93
204	(5)	012600	PETDSKIN 13 (F.G.S) (Mrs. J. Roulledge) J. Pearce 5-9-10 C. Teague (3)	97
,DE	<i>(</i> 15)	34254-1	CHAMPAGNE WARRIOR 4 (D.F) M Carracho 4-9-10 (Sex) L Chamock	90
206	(2)	3000-00	OPEN AFFAIR 20 (A Fousion) H Althory 4-9-8	90
307	(16)	064500-	SLAPY DAM 193 (D.G.S) (Ox Hill Flyers) C Smrth 5-9-7 long Wands (7)	91
203	1100		TOTALLY YOURS 153 (M Chemon) M Channon 4-9-4 Carely Morns	69
209	(E)	0.00100	EUROTWIST 7 (B.D.G.S) (Uncle Jacks Pub) S Kettlewell 8-9-0 J Fortune	88
210	(1)	040-604	PICARD 13 (Mrs. A Foreste) F Susphy 4-8-13	88
711	(8)		TAGATAY 13 (B.D.F) (M. Gleason) M. Carnecho 4-8-13	99
213	(12)		PRSH DASIS 194 (H Haresberg) B Rottmell 4-8-13 M Fersion	23
213	(15)		LOST IN THE POST 54 (6 Reed) C Thornton 4-8-12 D McKeonto	91
214	(20)	2/20423-	VIATICH ME GD 284 (F,G) (Walch Me Go) B Jones B-8-11 M Partymer	87
215	(14)	04644-3	PENDOLINO 15 (G) (lan Booth) M British 6-8-11 6 Bardwell	91
216	(4)	06-0000		90
.17	(19)	543-006		93
2:0	(13)	00/4000		-
219	(11)	541455		
20	(€:	0640-44	DINO'S MISTRAL 47 (F Lee) F Lee 4-8-8 K Fallon	92
BETTO	NG: 11	l-2 Watch A	lle Go. 6-1 Champagne Warnov. 8-1 Pendolino. 10-1 Totally Yours, Patosiun. 12-1 Fo	(30

BETTRIC: 11-2 Invetor ins. un. 0 - 1 13-1 Pacard 16-1 others. 1996: COMMTEC'S LEGEND 6-8-0 L Charact (7-1) J Bostomiey 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

SMALE CONSUMER (11 4), Stand).
FORTARR SMAI Sed 9 to Secherph in apprentice handson as Southwell 11 no 61, Stand). CHAM-PAGNE WARRIOR beat Bedoum Prince head in seller at Genetics (1fm 4f, good to firm). PICARD 15/41 and 7 to Kathyris Pell in auchon maiden at Musselburgh (1fm 4f, Soh). WATCH ME 60 11% I

SEASLE FOREYER 391 last at 7 to Basond to hands | 3rd of 12 to Chaladak in selling handscap Jan Dr. La Laguage S. Landy General P. Landield (im 54. standard)
PENDOLINO 41 3rd of 18 to Domino Flyes in Translation at Removastic (im 24. good) with PICARD (4th better off) 161 13th.
PLYTE BLISS 14941 6th of 16 to Kinoko un bandicap of Newcasto (2m. good)
Selection: FORZARI

SIS

3.10 FOUNTAINS HANDICAP (£5,374: 6f) (18 runners)

301	(5)	11/0000-	MR OSCAR 285 (C.F) (W McKeown) W McKeown S-10-0 J Carroll	89
312	(6)	200015-	HIGHBORN 181 (D.F.G) (Yorkshire Razon Club) P Felgate 8 9-12 K Darley	94
303	an	130023	LAGO DT VARANO 165 (C.F.G.S) (PBT Group) R Whysier 5-8-8. B McKeown	93
304	₹ñ	00020-0	TRUER 19 (D.F.S.) (Mrs. C. Robinson) M. Johnston 5-9-3	96
.05	(3)		PALACEGATE TOUCH 185 (V,CD,F,G,S) J Berry 7-9-2 P Roberts (5)	93
306	(13)	3413-	DOUBLE ACTION 307 (F) (C Stevens) T Easterby 3-9-1 A Cultistie	86
307	19)	00500-5	SAR SHLVER SOX 14 (D.EF.F.G) N Trobler 5-9-1 Kim Timbler	90
308	(14)	0063-11	THE HAPPY FOX 32 (B,F,G) (G Whiteless) B McMahon 5-9-0 R Cochrane	91
309	(8)	3000-00	CARBURTON 18 (V.F.S) (8 Fan) J Glover 4-8-10 6 Carter	86
310	(12)		XIRA 19 (D.F.G) (J. Wilson) J Eyre 7-8-10 R. Lappin	90
311	(4)	231460-	THE LAMSTON WORLD 202 (D.F.) (Lord Durham) Denys Smith 3-8-9 K Fallon	86
312	(15)	5000000-	BOLLEY HARRY 172 (D.F.G) (N Westbrook) T Easterby 5-6-8 M Birch	91
313	(10)	1000000	BENZOE 162 (D.F.S.) (1 Favoest) Mrs. J. Ramesten 7-8-8	98
314	(7)	21220-3	MA(TEAMA 9 (B.D.G.S) (Mrs 2 Gzml) 5 Bouring 4-8-7 K Sket (7)	88
315	(2)	322305-	FRENCH GRIT 155 (D.F.) (M. Welson) M. Doots 5-8-7	84
316	(18)	2/31154	TIME TO TANGO 243 (F) (Mrs. D Pairson) & Monte 4-8-4	90
317	(16)	500000-	HALMANEFROR 155 (D.F.G.S) 1.8ts J Farmaden 7-7-10 J Brannel (5)	8
319	(17)	060600	RICH GLOW 189 (F.S) (M Bateson) N Bycost 6-7-10	87
Long	handic	ap. Halman	error 7-9, Rech Glow 7-6	

SETTING: 9-2 Km., 5-1 Managma, 6-1 The Happy Fax, 7-1 Lago Di Varano, 8-1 Highhom, 10-1 Palacegi Touch, 12-1 French Grd, 16-1 others 1996, SUPER 3012 13-5-6 R Lapper (6-1 lav) J Evic 24 ran

FURM	FOCUS
MR OSCAR 5% 7h of 12 to Teace As Steep in handicap at Newcastle (5t firm), MRSHSDRN 61 5th of 7 to Verser in handicap at York 7t poop) 1.450 Of VARIANO SI 3rd of 13 to Sharptas Seri in hendicap at Doncares with PALACEGATE TOUCH 37th bears of) 77 7h 151, good, DOUBLE ACTION 3741 3rd of 6 to For Yout Eyes Only it confidents race at Beverley 151 good to firm; SIR SELVER	SOX 31 5th of 13 to Abctone Datem in seller Catenat: (71 good) THE HAPPY FOX beat Cret Git 114 in handacap at Woverhampton (51, stan KIRA beat Saho 244 in handicap at Doricaster on TILER (9th better off) 131 22nd, MATTEAMIA 11 3 of 13 to Supprise Miscons in handicap at Newsell (51, good to firm) Selection, KIRA (nsp)
	

3.40 GALPHAY CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-0: £4,426: 1m) (8 numers)

404	(2)	12-	WATERS GARE 192 (G) South Material (Cluber 3-2	. K Dante
405	151	11420-3	EONO-04 11 (5) 4 (2000) 2 50 5-12.	G Faulkner (5
406	të:	226230	MILEDY 13 (V.) GIF 12 to 8-72 Angel	a Gallemane (7
-57	1-1	333-	RECEIPE TO Plan 10 miles	D Lickeour
400	131	0125-	ATLANTO DESIRE 155 (F) POST : Facing Microsom 6-11	J Weave
8ETTC	G: :2	.15 Harri	one Room (III decrey Gene III Indoor, General III End No	12 7-1 Malo
lector.	Da. 13	-1 ಮಲಾ		

1996: SAUTELLANA GO S HOLD (AAS SAID GODDEN A VEN	
FORM FOCUS	

MRITHORY (3th begins off, 17th 5th WATTING GAME head 3rd of 7 to Forger Catholi mondations care at Hamilton 1tm 110°, good) ECHYD-DA 21 and of 7 to Baste Prof. in Intensical Selection: HARIDSOME RIDGE
--

4.10 STUDLEY ROYAL HANDICAP (£2,960: 1m 41 60yd) (15 nunners) (3) 15233-40 SLASHER LACK 20 (D.F.G.) (1) Chang 3 Numeric 6-10-1 . Also Greates (10) 563010 MBLTB://SSON 461 (F) Numeric Research M Hammond 4-9-11 . K Fallon

03	į€ ₃	23522-0	ALBERTARIAS 28 (3,6,6) (A AHA/dani) G Lewis 5-9-10 A Whelan (3)	9
84	(12)		SHEROY 15 (5) 11 co.11 Transport S Mathematil 5-9-4	
05	151		SUBSECRETE SPECIAL 14 (D.F.S.) (Alte Racing) D Barles 6-8-13 X Darley	9
06	(2)		WHETLEY GRANGE SOY IS ILES C SAGE) J Syrs 4-8-13 T WILLIAMS	5
67			GREAT CHIEF 61 ILis S Sucktard) Bab Jones 4-8-12 N Day	9
os.	17	04-2121	GALAPRIO 20 (D.F.SI (1) Dezimani, Miss & Nelloway 4-8-12 R Matten (5)	E
œ.			AUGUSTAN 4 (D.F) Plantiern Plancetock) S Gollege 6-8-11 . Par Eddary	
10	181		DR EDGAR 25 (F.G) 'A Natural M Dats 5-8-10 A Clark	5
11	(11)		MAFTUR 26 (D.F.G.) Hornel Partnersi & Moure 5-8-9 D Holland	5
12		CONTOOL-	MORNING SIR CS1 (Rustry Pain Synd) A Streeter 4-9-5 T Speaker	5
13			DASHING INVADER 227 (its Pairest) ? Hares 4-8-0 . G Canter	
14	191		CAROL ASAM 7 (D.G) (1 turnster; N Sycott 5-7-10	5
75	/15:		MONTE CAVO 8 (12 Britain) 12 Britain E-7-10	9
_			gua 7-9 Marte Care 7-1	

BETTING 9-2 Getapon, 7-1 Michael 8-1 Alcohomer, Summerfull Special, Augustan, 12-1 Mellemean, Stadie Jack, 16-1 others. 1996 PRP'S DREAM 5-8-8 (II Carson (13-8 by) M Pyen 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

Cavaliers handicap at Catlend (1m ol. good)
WGALAPONO base Rables Rooster 11 in 21-runner
apprentice handscap at Doncaster (1m -1, gpcd :n
from) with ALMURTARAM (10th better of) 300
16th.
AUGUSTAN 241 Am of 19 to Standles Way on
handicap at Severley (1m 21, good to farm)
implicate or referred finit of deep to many

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0	1-6432 GOOD TRAES 74 (CD,8F,F,G	.5) (Nes. D Robusson) B Hall 9-10-C . B West (4) 88
om (F — Hell der. B — broug etused, D — di jace (gs.) byton duckers V — vi	er. Draw in brackets. Six-figure P — prolled up. U — unskaled glut down. S — sloped up R — risquelified). Horse's name. Days g. J if framps. F of field. (B- sizer. H — hood. E — Eyesthield ner. D — distance winner CD —	course and distance whomer BF—beaten javourite in latest pace). Soung on which horse has won (F— firm, good to form, hard. G— good so soft, heavy). Owner in brackets Trainer. Age and weight. Blder plus any allowance the Times Private Handicappen's rating.

4.40 GRANTLEY MALDEN STAKES

ł	601	(8)	4	DURAID 8 (A Suddes) Detys Smallt 5-9-13 A Colhana	91
١	602	(2)	Q	MOST RESPECTFUL 9 (R Manners) Denys Smith 4-9-13 K Fallon	-
l	523	(12)	8	SAMSTOTRY 7 (J Cran) Miss L Penalt 7-9-13 J Opini	- 1
١	604	(16)	500034-	DESPOIL GEM 151 (W Imison) P Cairca 4-9-8 K Darky	93
Į	60 5	(5)		ACTION STATIONS (R Cyze) C Cyze 3-8-12 D Biogs	- 1
ı	606	(3)	36-	AMERICAN WASSPER 209 (Confederates) P Hamps 3-8-12 Pat Eddery	95
3	507	(13)	60-	BUPLESCAE 214 (Conton Partners) J Bethell 3-8-12 S Drowne	88
ı	608	(14)	0-3	BLERANGE TRUTH 20 (A Abdusta) R Charlion 3-8-12 T Sprake	97
I	609	(18)	90-	CRYSTAL GOLD 161 (M: Al Makkoum) M Sloute 3-8-12 D McKeown	86
1	610	(11)		FOOLED YOU (M At Mattourn) E Dunlop 3-8-12 D O'Donohoe (3)	- 1
1	611	(7)	0-	GREEN CARD 188 (P Cho) 5 Woods 3-8-12	99
ĺ	612	(6)		MAKATI (K Robert) M Carresho 3-8-12 L Charpock	- 1
ı	613	(4)		PREMIER ECLIPSE (Twelve Gents) P Harns 3-8-12	- 1
ĺ	614	(15)	0-	QUEZON CITY 168 (Mrs 5 Carracho) M Carracho 3-8-12 N Kennady	- i
ı	615	(17)		YOURS IN SPORT (B Robson) J Watts 3-8-12 W R Swindown	-
ì	616	{9}	0-	ZAGROS 314 (M. Ezzaerbyl T. Ezsterby 3-8-12	- 1
l	617	(10)	00-	WELCOME HOME 193 (Messinger Stud) P Dallon 3-8-7	-
ł	618	(1)		WOODBECK IB Fart) J Glover 3-8-7 G Carter	-
١	BETT	MG: 3-	1 American	i Whasper, 7-2 Burning Truth, 6-1 Green Card, 7-1 Fooled You, 8-1 Crystal Gold, 1	10-1

1996: POLINESSO 3-8-12 M Hids (2-1) B Hids 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

	DURAID 131 4th ol 8 to Perfect Paradigm in maiden
	at Newcastle (1sh 47 110y, good to firm) with
ı	MOST RESPECTRUL 731 7th, DISPOL GEN 51/41
ı	4th of 21 to Mel's Baby in lady indexs at Donicaster
ł	(In soli)
1	ALTERICAN WHISPER 111 6th of 18 to Royal
ı	Amazona a marker al Chancina (7) annel la firm)

BURNING TRUTH 9½1 3rd of 8 to Fty To The Stars on matten at Doucasies (1m. good to firm) CRYS-TAL GDLD 141 8th of 17 to Happy Valentine in matten at Yarmandh (71, good) GREEN CARD 6½1 good to firm) Selection: AMERICAN WHISPER

5.10 SAWLEY HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £2,882: 1m 2f) (13 runners)

			• • • •	
1	(11-	64-4	NOTRIE 15 (Mass D Woods) M Britam 9-7 J Carroll	91
2	110)	001060-	BLEPERDAL OR METRIC 158 (F) (Clayton Bugley) R Fahey 9-7 R Winston (7)	92
3	(B)	Q-1	BELLE BLICU 60 (D,G) (J Morreson) M Johnston 9-4 J Weaves	90
4	(4)		IBIN ST JAMES 173 (A Dahlem) J Betheli 9-4 D Hodard	89
5	(12)	32323-T	CASTLES BURNING 16 (6) (R Cycer) C Cycer 9-2 K Fallon	
6	(9)	560601-	EPIC STAND 155 (F) (C Websier) Mrs. J. Ramsden 8-11 J. Fortene	
7	151		FLOATING DEVON 181 (C Calvert) T Easlerby 8-7 M Birch	86
8	(3)	9212-55	BALL-PET 93 (G) (R Regg) J Parkes 8-5 J Brannial (5)	91
9	(7)	.044U6D-	NOT A LOT 170 (T Hughes) M W Easterby 8-4	90
10	(6)	6002-	CHALLIZ 135 (N Smelds) k Burle 8-1 J Dairm	90
11	(13)		SILVER BUTTON 13 (Mrs & Maectan) 5 Neillewell 7-13 . Jenny Benson (7)	
12	(1)		KINGDOM EMPEROR 277 (Mrs. 5 Canadax) M. Camacho 7-12 L Charnock	
13	(2)	0000-50	PETULA BOY 37 (Clark Services) S Bouring 7-10 P Fetsey (5)	85
BEITI	NG: 11	-4 Epoc Sila	nd, 3-1 Balle Byou, 5-1 Castles Burrong, 6-1 Noire, 10-1 Ibin St James, Floating Di	NON,

1998: MAJHTATA 9-7 W Carson (3-1 tax) J Dunkoo 15 ran.

FORM FOCUS

MOURIE 5341 4th of 7 to Maribool in residen at Newcastle (1m., good) BELLE BLOOU Resident Crof., placed 1st when shot 2nd of 6 to Mogud in auction melden at Lingfield (1m. 2), stand). CASTILES BURNING best Mendoza Vol in 8-tunner handicap at Lingfield (1m. stand) EPIC STAND
handicap at Logicid (tm. stand) EPIC STAND beat Double Espresso 11 in 18-nomer handicap at

Reciser with CASTLES BURNANG (3th baster of)
"Val 3nd BALL-PRT 2014 5th of 10 to Aspecto Lad
in select at Southwell (1m., stand)
CHALLIZ head 2nd of 9 th Velto Dolly in hendicap
at Violventampton (1m 100yd, stand). SILVER
BUTTON 161 5th of 6 to Potatice in madden handcap at Muscleburgh (1m, sett)
Selection: SILVER BUTTON

COURSE SPECIALISTS

- 1	I IKAINEKS	Wins	HITTS.	76	POPINETO	Miles	nkies.	76
! !	R Charlion	4	7	57.1	Pal Eddery	5	8	825
! (J Gooden	15	50	30.0	O Ultoina	4	14	286
۱ !	D Loder	3	11	273	W Ryan	14	58 63 80	24.1 23.8 21.3
: 1	M Stoute	8	42	19.0	R Cochrane	15 17	63	23.8
: 1	C Cyzer	3	16	18.8	J Wearer	17	.80	21.3
١,	M Johnston	16	97	16.5	k. Darley	31	152 26	30 4
- 1	C Teague	5	29	17.2	M Channon	4	26	15 4
1								

Pas De Reponse back

PAS DE REPONSE, the lead- face of continuing strong sup-

make a successful comeback in the Prix Imprudence, a listed race over 612 furlongs. Sleepytime, trained by Henry Cecil, has emerged as the most popular Britishtrained filly with punters for the Newmarket contest on May 4. Ladbrokes were yesterday forced to cut the daughter of Royal Academy

from 11-4 to 9-4 favourite in

ing French candidate for the

Pertemps 1,000 Guineas, faces

a maximum of three rivals on

her reappearance at Maisons-

Laffitte on Friday. The Criquette Head-trained filly.

backed from 9-1 to 7-1 for the

first fillies' classic with the

Tote yesterday, is expected to

man 2.000 Guineas possible, Tomba. was also among yesterday's six acceptors for the Djebel. Ladbrokes's 1,000 Guineas betting: 9-4 Sleepytime, 5-1 Moonlight Paradise, 6-1 Reams Of Verse, 7-1 Pas De Reponse, 10-1 Yashmak, Sarayir, Khassah. 14-1 others.

port. Sleepytime has not raced

since an unlucky third to her

stable companion. Reams Of

Verse, in the group one Fillies'

Mile at Ascot last September.

On the same Maisons-Laffitte card, Clive Brittain is

likely to run his French 2,000

Guineas candidate, Fantastic

Fellow, in the listed Prix

Djebel. Brian Meehan's Ger-

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Nottingham
Going: good to him
2.00 (Im 11 213yd) 1. AISCATTO (J. Reid, 7-2 laid; 2. Sidney The Kidney (G. Carlet 11-2), 3. Rochea (M. Fenton, 14-1). ALSO: RAN-5 Miss Sacciona (Sh), 6. Minor Four Sout, 7. Spondulot-s Mini. 8. Beninose 13-htglo. Tree. Pamor. 16. Footish fluiter, Luckonsun (6m), 20. Control. Fireak, 25. Capitan Fini. 3. Mechine, 100 Titler 15 fan. 151, 21. 1-3 sh.hd, 3. W. Mut at Lambour.

Tote: \$6.70. \$2.40. \$2.90, \$5.30. \$6.512.30. Trick \$55.40. \$5.522.36. Trick \$240.84. \$0.000 pts. \$240.84. \$0.000 pts. \$2.30. \$1.13\text{v0}1. \$8.10\text{SHING VICTORIA (D. Sweeney, 14-1): 2. Bernardo Bellotto Fial Eddery, Evins Ian), \$1.8\text{Bernardo Bellotto Fial Eddery, Evins Ian), \$1.8\text{Bernardo Bellotto Fial Eddery, Evins Ian), \$1.8\text{Besset (R Hughes, 9-1). Al 50. RAN, \$3.8\text{Massets (R Hughes, 10. Massets), \$1.000. \$

Cá7 20 CSF 632 30 3,00 (5) 13yd) 1, MOUCHE (J Fortune, 7-1), 2 Lamarita (Fl Coctrane, 11-2), 3, Sileni Miracle (M Fenton, Evens tav), ALSO FAM 5, Tayeban 14th), 7, Comendi, 14, Sang d'Anlèse (5)(1), 50 Aguate Queen (6)(1), 7 ran, Shiho, shiho, 24 (, 2)4, 13yl, Mrs J

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MAITEAMIA (3.10 Ripon) Next best: Handsome Ridge (3.40 Ripon)

Ramsden at Thirsk Tote £10.40 £3.40. £2.70, DF. £18.90, CSF £41.42 22.70. DF. £18 90. CSF £41 42
3.30 (6f 15yd) 1 MERANTI (R Fliench, 12-1), 2 Beau Venture (T Sprake, 16-1); 3.
Grey Kingdom (D Memagh, 20-1); 4
Polinter (D Holland 41 (Hain A.SO RAN
4-1) Hay Fame Again, 7 Chadwell Hall (Sh),
9 Sing With The Band, 12 College Night,
Fany Pinnce, Govetski, 16 Cross The Bonder
Sound The Trumpet (6th), Will Do, 20
Margaretrose Anna, 2am Canoror, 25 Gay
Breeze, Magazane, Gap, 33 Dectron
Dancer, Into Debt, Mage Melody, Maysemp,
Miss Carottene 22 ran 4, 3, 244, 4, 41, 3
Breatley at Chepstow, Tole £16-20, £5.10,
£5.90, £5.80, £1.40 DF £22.9.70 The
£1,877.30 CSF £189.42 Treast:
53.568.44

23.558 44
4.00 (fm Siyd) 1. LATALOMNE (D C'Donothoe, 7-1), 2. Shearm (R Darley, 4-6 lav); 3. Sheheen (R Fallon, 7-2) ALSO RAN-10 Spv Knoti, 12 Muhawwii, 14 Occam, 16 March Crusader, 20 Epworth (4th), Nobel Led, Select Choice, 25 Mumans (Sth), 33 Final Waming (6th), Por Friend, Reckless, Wild City, 50 Gold Cupper, Top Jen, 100 Silver, Jubilice 18 ran 2, 1-1/1, 8, 41, 35/1; Eurilop all Newmarket Tote: £12,80; £2,80, £150, £110 DF: £7-20 Trio; £18.50 CSF; £12,80, 4.30 (1m 54yd) 1, EUROBOX BOY (C 4.30 (Im 54yd) 1. EUROBOX BOY (C Carver, 3-1 tav), 2. Bedezzle (D Memegh, 20-1), 3. Return To Brighton (J Fowle, 20-1); 4. Queens Stroller (R Bricland, 10-1)

ALSO BAN 7 Arran. 19 Kevacingo. 11 Metronamo Shouldbogre, 12 Bolo Habri, Shomane, 14 Ameer Afayadi, Legend Ol Amgon Ushoo Zeal. 16 Richard Mouse Led 15th; 20 Ratier J. 25 One in The Eye 16th; 35 Contamen Stort. Oka, Baby 18 ran 2 ft -1 of, 1-1 hd A Janus at fuddol Tote 14,10 61 70, 52 20, 95 30 52 30. DF 978 80 Th: 2224 90 pain won, pool of 1241 32 conted forward to 2 40 at Ripon todey) CSF CVBO Tricks 11037 93.

Jackpot not you pool of £28,618.60 Placepot: £236,90. Quadpot: £88.60.

Wolverhampton 2 15 16h 1 Mon Bruce (Dane O'Neil), 13-8 1ac, Private Handicapper's top ratingl; 2, Don't Worry May (12-1), 3, K S Surshme 4-11 9 tan NP, Gomeas Galore Hd, nk, W Idua Tole (20,00 C) 10, 51-10, 12-10 DF 513 70 Time (24-10 CSF 519-87

£79.20 CSF £46.00 3.15 (7th.) Trading Aces (R Mullen, 4-1), 2, Faym 14-1), 3, Tayondin (7-2 lay) 7 ran Sh hd, 2"1 M Boll Tote £4.30, £2.90, £2.50 DF £7.90 CSF £19.00 3.45 (fm. 4), 1, Raffles Rooster (fona Wands, 4-1), 2, Sectborgh (5-1), 3, Everby Pay 17-11 Tropan Reb 7/2 lay 10 tan 25s), 21 A Newcombe Tote \$57.00, £2.00, £2.00, £1.80 DF: £13.20 Tho £22.60 CSF £13.24 Thosat £127.19 4.15 (60.1), Sape 40 Sweeney, 5-1), 2,

4.45 (S) 1. Time To Fly (J F Egan, 25-1), 2, Sis Cattage (3-1 tax), 3 Stephensons Rocket (7-1), 13 ran 41, 14 B Murray, Tote 127-10, 67-80, 61-50, C3-50, DF: 6149-40, Time Essé 80 (part won, pool of C309-17 carried toward to 2-40, at Ripor Today) CSF: 5114-39, Tricast, 5738-33.



CHEPSTOW

2.00 Kinnescash. 2.30 Night Fancy. 3.00 & Don. 3.30 Danger Baby. 4.00 THEME ARENA (nap). 4.30 Some-Toy. 5.00 Tommy Tickle. Carl Evans: 4.30 Some-Toy.

GOING: FIRM (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)

2.00 BEAGLES NOVICES HURDLE (£2,808: 2m 110yd) (9 runners)

1	322	AND BLESS 100 100 CO. C. S. D. Dana 5-31-17 A P MCLOY
•	2112	RREAK THE RILLES 20F (0.6) M Pipe 5-11-12 . A P McCoy I BACHE DINGLE 340 Mrs S Johnson 6-11-0 . A Thomson BACHE DINGLE 340 Mrs S Johnson 6-11-0 . M Richards
7		
á		
•	P	GLOBAL DANCER 9 L Wells 6-11-0 M Richards HEVER GOLF DIAMOND 29 (D.F) J Best 4-11-0 Mr P O'Needle (7)
- 7	-cna	WESTERN COLF DIAMOND 29 (DJT) 1 DEST THIND
- 5		
		KONNESCASH 13 (F) P Bowen 4-11-0 . M A Rizgerald ! M Moran (7)
	0224	
	0221	The same of the Change of 7-10-9
•	0	ROWEST ROSE 9 M Sheppard 7-10-9 M Moran (7) FOREST ROSE 9 M Sheppard 7-10-9 W Marston
ä		
e		
9	PF	STARTINGO S R Grown 4-10-8 Mr A Change John S
		STARTINGO 9 N GUARANT 10-1 Ami Bies. 20-1 Heyer Golf Diamor Rules. 2-1 Remessach 10-1 Ami Bies. 20-1 Heyer Golf Diamor
- 18	best R	HAIRS A THAIR SALE AND
6.1	-	33-1 Forest Rose, 50-1 others

2.30 ANVIL NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,162, 2m 3f 110yd) (1 USP2 MOZZMO 7 (8,6) 2 P.5- EDEN STREAM 51 2 444 FLOWING RIVER 1 4 465 JHAL FREZI 124 (6 5 0434 MIGHT FANCY 9 M 6 653P FATTASH 9 (8) P 7 561LZ RUL SHILLING 9 11-10 Mazzmo 5-1 Fail Shillin 10-1 Ficating Fever 14-1 Eden S	of Pipe 19-1-19-19 9 Miss C Saally 18-17-2 4 (F.6) N Motchell 11-11-1 4 (F.6) N Motchell 11-11-1 5 A Woodow 9-10-10 15 A Woodow 9-10-9 15 A Woodow 9-10-9 15 A Woodow 9-10-9 16 Miss S Durack (7) 16-1 Might Fancy, 7-1 Junit Fiezy, 8-1 Fatter

3.00 FARRIER HANDICAP HURDLE

1 2843 GLENGARRE GRL 53 (V.F) M Proc 7-11-10 A P McCoy 94
2 005F CALL MY GJEST 9 (D.G.5) R Peacock 7-11-9-M A Fargerald 96
3 214P EL DON 74 (F.G.) & Read 5-11-8
4 3051 ROSS DANCER 9 (F) J Gaore 5-10-7 (Sex) J Mages (3) (S) (£3,534: 2m 4l 110ya) (4) 7:-18 Glengand Gr., 3-1 St Don 4-1 Call My Guest, 5-1 Ross Dancel

3.30 OSTLER HANDICAP CHASE (£3.875-3m) (4) 1 P411 BLACK CHURCH 11 (C.F.S.) R Roys 11-11-10. D C Subtran ES 2 P653 DANGER BABY 9 (D.F.G.5) D Williams 7-11-1 Mr 5 Durack (7) 95 3 0004 LINDEN'S (OTTO 11 (C.F.G.5) While 3-11-1 JR Kavaroph 88 4 3P94 BLITE GOVERNOR 19 (F.G. 1) Lampaid 8-10-1 Chris Webb (5) 89 E-4 Sock Charch, 9-4 Canger Sabr 7-7 Landen's Lotte 3-2 Ein: Governor

4.00 COURT SELLING HURDLE

1 40P1 EVEZIO RUFO 9 (B,D,F) N Listmoden 5-11-5 . K Gasale.
2 26PG HALMAN TARN 7 (D.S) H Mames: 7-11-5 S Curran
3 PSOF CHALL HEIGHTS 33 (V) k Bishop 7-11-0 & Tormer
4 OP14 DERRYBELLE 9 (D.F) D William: 6-11-0 . Mr S Durack (7)
5 0255 SHEECKY 8 (O.S) B McMahon 6-11-0 . 5 Ryan (5)
6 DPPP ABBEYDORAN 11 (B) Mrs J Haskins 6-10-9 D J Kavanagh (5)
7 DP-P CUTLLEN 18 R Smith 5-10-9
8 0542 CHAKER WALTZ 7 J Tura 7-10-9 R Balanty
9 06 BRECON 64 % Liket 4-10-8 M Richards
10 2402 THEME ARENA 9 (BF,F) M Page 4-10-8 A P McCoy
11 P PERSIAN DAWN 112 H Philips 4-10-2 . A Thornton
9-4 Theme Arena, 4-1 Quaker Waltz, 5-1 Evento Rudo Brecco, 6-1 Sheetiky Demybelle, 16-1 Halfrem Taro, 20-1 others

4.30 EARTHSTOPPERS HUNTERS CHASE

		HISPLA RIGIDES & IN DATA 1972 1 1972 2 1974 DESTRUCTION IN TAXABLE AND ADDRESS OF TAXABLE A
		0 :3cftel (7) 92
	6647	SOME-TOY 11P (F.G.S) J Squite 11-12-1 Mass L Blackford 17) 83
- 3	PI®1	WATAT A TO DO 9P (CD.F.S) C SWEETING 13-12-1
-		Mars (Sweething (/) 89
	4522	CATCH THE CROSS OF (B.D.F.G.S) Mrs \1 Hard \1-11-12
-		Strain Band •
•	-077	GAMBLING ROYAL 14 (D.6.5) P Prictors 14-11-12
•		P Print and (7) 90
	.763	SOMOFAGIPSY 15 (B.D.F.G) J Dubrase 13-11-17
_		NR Michael (7) (E)
2-1 9	onolag	psy, 7-2 Rusty Brusge, 4-1 What A To Do. 5-1 Some-To, 6-1 Catch
he C	mss. C	i Gambling Royal

5.00 WHIPPERS IN STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,686° 2m 110yd) (12)

	a	HENDRING KINES 111 CHEMOLES 2-11- HOUSE & CHEMOLY 11	
•	ñ	CEMERAL MILIMEY 48 D Caro 5-11-4 17 18859	
٠,	~×	MINIALLAE 28 Mrs A Woodlow 5-11-1 . JA McCarthy	
	w	TOWARY TICKLE 20 G Price 5-T1-4 J R Navanagh	
4	4		
- 5			
ő		LITTLE TIME B Eckley 5-10-13 . M Sharran	
~		OCULLA Mes. L Straffy 5-10-13 D Leastry	
	_	BORN AT KINGS 14 J Whate 4-10-12 . S Femion	
8	v		
9	0		
10	ĕ	DIAMOND HALL 21 F Buste 4-10-12 A Larmach	
	-=	DUNKY DORA 18 J CICESKEII 4-10-7 . 21 A FEDERALD	
11	0.	CHARLES TO ALCOHOL SHOW A COLO.	
12			
		icide 5-2 David Doca 7-1 Diamond Hall 8-1 Dancing is No born	
7 - 10	N Y	Marie 2-5 Delias Dord 1-1 Killings on a second second	
a mas	1. 1	Sharmry Dancary 16-1 General Williams 29-1 James	
4.4	-	•	
			•

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS, M. Pipe, 54 winners from 206 numbers, 25 25, 9 Rowe, 6 from 52, 16,8%, J. Where 3 from 16, 15 29, Cody qualifiers, J. Gockeys: A. P. McClor. 22 winners from 77 rades 12 55, J. A. McCarthy, 3 from 11, 1732 a. Formey, 5 from 51, 25 27, D. O'Sulfran, 4 from 19, 21, 15, U. A. Fittyerald, 11 from 74, 14, 25, J. R. Radonago, 1, 5 cm 28, 14 55.

LUDLOW

THUNDERER 2.20 Against The Clock. 2.50 Imperial Vintage. 3.20 Lovelark. 3,50 Snowy Petrel. 4.20 Moobakkr. 4.50 Fox Pointer. 5.20 Percy Braithwalte. Carl Evans: 4.50 Judy Line.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) 2.20 caynham selling handicap hurdle (\$2,024; 2m) (13 runners)

1	500P	WORDSMITH & (D.G.S) J L Harrs 7-11-10 R Supp
2	U\$35	FEMAN COURT 89F (BF) P Evans 6-11-8
3	UDPS	GLENMANS 7 P Principard 10-11-8 P Principar
4	36P0	KALZARI B3 (CD,G) & Carroll 12-11-8 Mr A Windle (7
5	-061	BLOTOFT 9 (D.G) S Gollings 5-11-7 (70) N Williamso
Ğ.	1012	PUTH'S GAMELE 9 (V.D.BF.F.G) Mrs L. Jovett 9-11-4
-		X Alzoura (7
7	0-P5	BRITANNIA MALLS 21 (6) M Chapman 6-11-3. W Worthings
		TEE TEE TOO 67 A Carroll 5-11-3 D Wats
9	P003	CAPTAIN TAKEY 9 (D.F.S.) C Smith 8-11-3 P McLoughi
10	0204	SAAFI 15 (B) R Bake 6-11-0 V Skatter
11	0306	FCU DE FRANCE 49 (V) P Ritchers 7-10-5 S Fo
12	4006	AGAINST THE CLOCK 11 P Bowen 5-10-0 R Johnson
13	0000	BOLD CHARLE 78 (B) S Melter 5-10-0 N Man
_		mole, 7-2 Blanck, 6-1 Fensey Court, 8-1 Wordsmath, 10-1 Britana
MIS.	Mari, C	apisar Tandy, 14-1 others

2.50 BUNDY (UK) HANDICAP CHASE

(E3	١,:	98. 2	(m 4!) (4)	
	1	P/UT	RABA RIBA 9 (CD,F,G) J Spearing 12-12-5 (6ex) IMPERAL VINTAGE 9 (CD,BF,F,G) Miss V Williams	. V 52-pp
	2	114	IMPERAL VOITAGE 9 (CD, BF, F,G) Muss V Williams	7-11-10
	3	21131 P502	FENNACK 11 (CD.F.G.S) R Hodges 10-10-0 PANDDRA'S PRIZE 4 (S) 7 Wall 11-10-0	A) Walkams 7 Dascom 7 Dascom
			latage. 7-4 Rida Rida 11-4 Fermick 50-1 Pardora's	

3.20 D J PROFILES NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (Conditional jockeys: £2,528: 2m 5(110yo) (11)

		SALIS 8 A FOREX 5-11-1	
5	-200	SHAMMON LAD 121 A Carroll 7-11-0	- 1
7	1666	BALMORAL PRINCESS 36 (B,F) J Percock 4-10-13 Q BA	Ш
8	0064	LADY OF MENE 4 P Sewen 7-10-1 L Co	- Prio
9	5PPP	MERAMARE 11 R Hodges 7-10-0 J	íα
:0	2624	LCAVELAROA 7 R Lee 8-10-8	Пİ
11	P/P	CREDIT CALL 89F R Brizington 9-10-0	81
9-4 ñy	ania, 7	2 Web Armed, 6-1 Piper's Rock, 9-1 Factori Gold, Lath	0
10-15	anc S	tannon (ad 14-1 pitters	

4221 TBNAYESTELISN 9 (CD.F.6) D Marks 9-11-9... S Wymne 2 PP13 DICH BBPERGR 63 (C.F.) A Caroli 7-11-7... T J Murphy 3 -3PP AEGLAN 16 Mess P Whittle 6-11-0....... D Watch 4 SUPP GIVEY 7 6 McCoul 7-11-0...... D Forti (3) 5 -683 GUARTER MARKER 9 (F) R Lee 9-11-0... R Johnson 5 -684 WHOD OF THOUSH IT 25 P Cleanings 6-11-0. V Stateny 7 - 8634 SNOWY PETREL 47 (8,8F) h Balley 5-10-7 S Michael Cornel Cornel 2-7 Tensantision 4-1 Inch Ferment 6-1 Deates Marker 10-1 2-1 Snowy Patrel, 7-2 Tensyestelign, 4-1 Inch Emperor, 6-1 Quartes Marker, 10-1 Whod Ol Thought B, Gury, 12-1 Asolen

3.50 BUNDY NOVICES CHASE (£2,851: 2m) (7)

4.20 SARA HAMILTON-RUSSELL MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,723: 2m 51 110yd) (6)

4.50 CHASE MEREDITH MEMORIAL TROPHY HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,481: 3m) (7)

4-5 Sutamesi, 3-1 First Creak, 5-1 Miss Mangold, 8-1 others.

5 On4- CANDLE GLOW 326 (D.F.S) P Hacebreson 9-12-0 S Mooris (7) 6 PGTS JLOY 186 24P (6) 6 Levis 8-11-9 S Minoris (7) 7 -PSP THORNWALL 9P F Mathews 7-11-9 M Macrowd (7) 2-1 Wrid Uncorn 5-2 My Normane, 4-1 Fox Pointer, 9-2 Capa Cottags, 10-1 Canalle Glow, 20-1 Judy Line, 25-1 Thornhall

5.20 BURWARTON NOVICES HURDLE (£2,248; 2m) (7) 1 4100 PERCY BRATHWAITE 32 (CD.F) Miss P Whittle 5-11-6

	м
2 O-D MOLONYS DRAM 9 J L Harris 6-11-0 R S	
3 5003 MOOHLIGHT ESCAPADE 9 (6) R Hodges 6-11-0. V S	Ы
4 136 MAME OF OUR FATHER 57 (D.F.) P Bowen 4-11-0 R Jo	h
5 13 POPPY'S DREAM 124 (BFJ) J Wanton 7-10-9 Mr R Trom	40
5 PS BARION HRABOVSKY 9 (B) G Thomas 4-10-8 B	'n
7 4 LUCKY ARCHER 18 P Hobbs 4-10-8 N Wills	um
5-4 Lucky Archer, 5-1 Percy Brailtweite, Moonlight Escapade, 6-1 Name	ù
Father, 7-1 Poppy': Oream 12-1 Mistorys Dram. 16-1 Baron Hraboustry	

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANERS: Miss Jeanuter Pidgeon, 5 winners from 9 frantes, 55 6%; J.J. O'Neal, 4 from 8, 50 0%; R. Carts, 4 from 14, 28,6%; K. Balley, 20 from 75, 26 7%, R. Hodges, 8 from 45, 17,8%. JOCKEYS: D Burrows. 3 conners from 11 rides. 27.3%. N Wilsomson, 13 from 64, 20.3%. R Massey, 6 from 38, 15.6%; N Mayn, 3 from 19, 15.6%; C Lieucilyn, 8 from 62, 12.9%; S McNeill, 7 from 56, 12.5%.

2.45 (Inc. 1394) 1. Dragonjoy (R Lappin, 5-1), 2. Square Draft (S f), 3. Shalfishayes (S-1). Barbara's Jewid 4-1 lay 12 ran NR Baby Jana 91 91 f) Lithmoden Tote 93.40, 23.09 (3.40 f) 60 DF 980.20 Thos 77.20 CSF 546.00

4.15 (5) 1. Sage (D. Sweeney, S-1), 2. Received Lady (10-1), 3, Who Nose (9-4) Pris Ticket 2-1 tax 7 (an %), bd. W.G. M. G. M. Care (5-1) (2, 16.0, 18.5) DF (24 10 CSF 15.6 a7 Sold for 4,600gns

Placepot: £336.00. Quadpot: £181.30. BLINNERED FIRST TIME: Chepstow: 4 00 Abbeydoran 4 30 Sonotagpsy 5 00 Desh On By Ludlow: 220 Bold Charle, Ecu De France Ripon: 2:40 Eurohest, Tagalay 3:10 Carburton



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Fig.7. Juggling and balancing with difficult objects.

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Confident **Staines** closes on big time

By David Powell, athletics correspondent

IT MAY not be a team for the future but, for this week. Britain could not wish for much better. Of the top ten contenders for the men's title in the Flora London Marathon on Sunday, four are British. Their average age is 35, so to suggest that they lack experi-ence would be much like saying that Robbie Fowler is short of goals.

Three of the four, Eamonn Martin, Paul Evans and Rich-



Only in The Times next week: complete list of London . Marathon finishers

ard Nerurkar, are vastly experienced and each has won at least one significant marathon during his career. Martin was the 1993 London and 1995 Chicago champion, Evans the 1996 Chicago winner, and Nerurkar the 1993 World Cup victor. The fourth Briton, Gary Staines, after only three marathons, and no wins, has

some catching up to do. Listening to the four talking yesterday, each expressing confidence in his prospects for Sunday, it seemed ludicrous that this year, of all years, the British Marathon Runners' Club should have folded. Inaugurated in 1978 as a club for sub 2hr 30min runners, it suffered declining numbers in recent years but, if the second division is weak, the first is

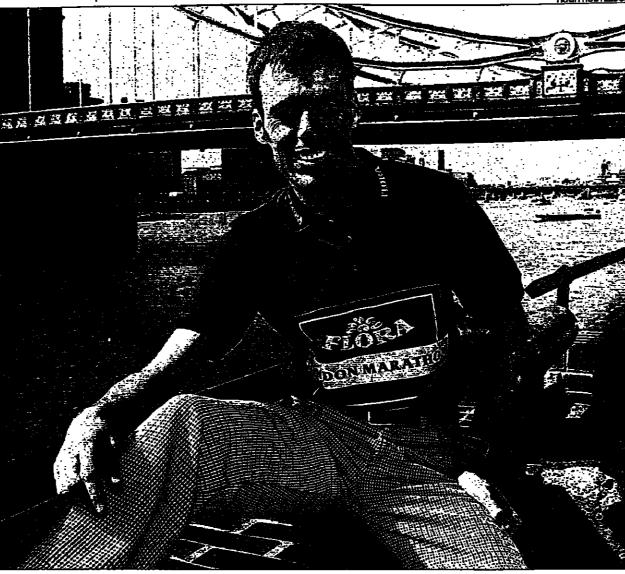
Martin dropped out of London last year, injured, was fourth in Chicago and is 38, but who says that is too old? Carlos Lopes set a world record at 38 and Martin is pleased with his preparation. No problems," he said.

Evans, 36 on race day, and Nerurkar, 33, are satisfied, too, that training has gone well. In the department of contentment, Staines was just

"Win? Of course, I can," Staines, 33, said. "After three marathons, I have the experience now. This time I think I can be as good as anybody. I have surprised myself with some of the training sessions." He mentions Evans's win-

ning Chicago time of 2hr 08min 52sec and notes the age difference. "I am sure I am capable of that some time in my career," he said. "I am not saying it is going to be on Sunday, but I am confident it will happen."

By way of two late confidence-boosters, Staines won the Fleet Half Marathon and set the fastest short-leg time in the Southern road relay. Short distances were what Staines made his name at on the international stage. He won



Having run three marathons, and gone well in training, Staines believes he can win in London on Sunday

the silver medal in the 5,000 metres at the 1990 European championships, in Split. It is with pride that he says: "Not many marathon runnners have run a 3min 53sec mile."

Salvatore Antibo, from Italy, had won the 10.000 metres in Split and, seeking to complete the double, fell soon after the start of the 5.000 metres. Dramatically, he made up the ground, denying Staines in a close finish.

For a brief time, it seemed that Staines might go home with the gold anyway. A protest from Portugal, claiming that Antibo had elbowed

his way to victory, was subsequently rejected, however.

Staines is still waiting for his first eye-catching international win, but remains relieved that Antibo was not disqualified. "He was the better guy on the day," Staines said. The Englishman would not have felt comfortable taking the gold.

Perhaps this Sunday will bring the recognition that Staines has worked for in his ten years as a full-time runner. He has not earned much, just enough to live and pay the mortgage. He dare not think how his life might change if he

won on Sunday. "It is very close, but also very far away," Staines said.

The transition from track to

marathon runner took longer than it should have done, Staines said, because of his reluctance to accept the different training required. That was one thing I found really hard," he said. "I would try to re-enact the workouts I had been doing as a 5,000 metres

"I would think: 'I can still do 60 seconds for 400 metres." But you do not need to run that quick when you are in a marathon. It took me a long time to appreciate that marathon running needs a completely different type of buildup." To begin with, speed was still his forte, as his British best of 46min 11sec for ten

miles in 1993 indicated. Staines is married to Linda Keough, whose successes on the track outscore his. While she has been injured, she has worked on his career, urging him on, supporting him. "She won a Commonwealth gold," he said. "It was a gold, wasn't it? I don't even know. I think that is because she has got better medals than I have." Yes, but for how much longer? **RUGBY UNION**

Harlequins in urgent need of Wood's steel

By David Hands, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SHOWING a sense of timing as poor as their most recent Harlequins have slipped out of the top four clubs in the Courage Clubs Championship for the first time this season. Their defeat by London Irish at the weekend allowed Sale to edge them into fifth place, so the game with Saracens this evening takes on a greater dimension. It will be just as significant for the British Isles team management, who will have

their first sight of Keith Wood in three months. The Ireland hooker, who dislocated a shoulder against France in January, makes his first senior appearance since then and will be desperate to prove his fitness. The Lions leave for South Africa on May 17.

It was not a good weekend for a number of Lions: Tony Underwood, Tim Rodber and Jeremy Davidson did not complete their clubs' league matches, though all are optimistic that they will recover from. respectively, jaw. neck and hamstring injuries in time to tour.

Victory tonight would move Harlequins one place higher than Sale and would also reverse the 28-20 defeat sustained at Enfield in January. It would also provide further discouragement for Saracens. whose own European ambitions suffered a damaging blow when they lost at

Gloucester on Saturday. They remain without the injured Michael Lynagh and another Australia World Cup finalist, Tony Daly, reverts to the replacements. However, Francois Pienaar starts a match for the first time since pulling a hamstring in the Pilkington Cup quarter-final in February, while Philippe

Sella has recovered from the injury that forced him off midway through the game at Gloucester.

Saracens have approached Br ,tol for permission to speak with Martin Corry, the England A flanker who captains Bristol, about a possible transfer to London. However, Corry still has 14 months of his existing contract to fulfil and has played down prospects of a move. "I have an important job to do at Bristol, which is to help the club avoid relegation," he said.

Whichever English clubs qualify for the Heineken Cup next season, the organisers, European Rugby Cup Ltd. still face hostility from France for their scheduled arrange-ments. Though a recent meeting in Dublin agreed a 1997-98 season beginning on August 16 and incorporating European games during September and October, the leading French clubs perceive a season in which their domestic championship is lost to sight for three months.

Not only do they have European club fixtures to contend with but the Latin Cup. involving France, Italy, Romania and Argentina, is due to take place in October. However, an alternative arrangement would see the Latin Cup completed by the end of August, which might prove more acceptable.

Nor are all the Welsh clubs overjoyed at the prospect of an eight-club elite division, which was agreed last weekend. Neath, last season's league champions but now perched perilously just above the four relegation places, fear for their development programme should they descend to the

* FOR THE RECORD

Dealer North

±J975

+1054

+9432

FOOTBALL FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Leeds United 0 Stackburn Rovers 0
VALIXHALL, CONFERENCE: Hednesford 1 sion: Falkirk 2 Stirling 2. UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Ashton United 2 Eastwood T 0. ICIS LEAGUE: Third division: Tring 0 Camberley 1. DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division:

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier divis Boavista, 4; Porto 3 Espinho 0; Leca 0 Farense 0; Mantimo 1 Rio Ave 0.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The text books advise making passive leads against No-Trump

slams. But there is more of a case for an aggressive lead when there is evidence that both dummy and declarer have long suits.

What would you lead from the West hand in the auction below?

4AQJ8765

+1083

¥1098762

AKQ

N.

±642

▲K₫13 +KQJ86 **4** 10

W E

4A7

Love all

Rubber bridge

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier divi-SPANISH LEAGUE: Real Madrid 0 Composiela u PORTUGIJESE LEAGUE: Guimaraes

BASEBALL

Basketball NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Charlotte 110 Cleveland 105 (OT); Miami 94

By Raymond Keene

CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Nigel Short, Britain's top-

ranked player, was invited to

the Dos Hermanas tourna-

ment in Spain, an assemblage

of the world's elite, at short

notice when a last-minute

vacancy occurred. Sadly, Short's lack of form became

evident early on when he was

comprehensively outplayed in

the following encounter with

Boris Gelfand, the Bela-

In the opening of this game Short confused two defensive

systems and found that his

king had inadvertently wan-

dered into the firing line of a

massed concentration of

White forces on the right

russian grandmaster.

White: Boris Gelfand

Dos Hermanas, April 1997

Nimzo-Indian Defence

e6 Bb4

Bxc3 d6 e5 Ne7 h6

Bd7 Kg7 Rh8 Rb8 a6

Rb7

Black: Nigel Short

flank.

1 d4

3 Nc3

4 e3

6 Nt3 7 0-0

10 d5

12 f3 13 Nf5

15 Bd2

Oc2

8 bxc3

Short's setback

BOWLS MELTON MOWBRAY: All England man's indoor championships: Fours: Final: Stanley (I Peacock, E Harry, J Leeman, C Palmer) bt Opphas: (P Butcher, T Happel, M Sekjer, G Smith) 20-11: Triples: Second round: Bentham (A Alcock) bt Darfington (A Kiriland) 20-12; Teigribridge (J Wickham) bt North Welsham (D Ward) 22-2: South Freet 41 Millet It South Shedis (R Dykos) Allen) 18-14; Destorough th Preston 20-12; Follestone bt Five Rivers 29-6; Kingsthope bt Richardsons 16-13; Blackpool Borough bt March 25-13

gxh4 Ng5 Qd8 f6 b5

axb5

bxc4

Nf7 Kg8 Be8

Ke7

Diagram of final position

3 2 1

The Staffordshire Centenary

tournament pitted two teams

of local and international play-

ers against each other. Team

A scored a total of 41 points

while Team B scored 40

NDIVIDUAL RESULTS: Teem A: Rowson 6½; Arakhamia and Durnington 6; Sindik 5½; Buckley 5; Robert Bellin 4½; Grant 3; Jana Bellin 2½; Anderion 2 Team B: B Lalic 7; Arkell and Culm 6; Motwars 5½. H-Hurt and Kelli 6; Crease 2; Gricell 1½;

and Kelly 5; Cooper 3; Grinsell 1%;

☐ Raymond Keene writes on

chess Monday to Friday in

Sport and in the Weekend

section on Saturday.

Staffordshire

Centenary

Black resigns

KEENE on CHESS

23 M

Rxh4

Be3

Kg3 Oh2

Be4 Be3

Bh6+

Bg7

caronich Caregory: event antare common contemploraship: Final: Northamptonshire bit Middlesex 130-94 (Rink scores: Northamptonshire skips first: G Rizgeraid 20 S White 19; M Johnson 19 P Launders 24; E Payne 18 E Logar 11; V Wade 33 I Foote 12: Z Eleier 18 B Hurst 13; M Geerey 22 A Philipot

Welsh town championahip: Final: Pontcanna bt Oxwich 89-65 Hink scores (Pontcanna skips lirst); R Wason 18 J Price 18, N Collet 20 N Williams 17; S Jackson 26 M Matthews 15; J Webley 25 C Teylor 15.

CRICKET Fourth Test match

West Indies v India ANTIGUA (fourth day of five; West Indies won loss). West Indies have scored 252 for seven against India

WEST INDIES: First limings

S. Campball run out 10

S. C. Williams o Tendutian b Kuruwilla 0

S. Chanderpaul o Leoman b Kuruwilla 0

S. Chanderpaul o Leoman b Kuruwilla 103

C. L. Hooper o Azhanuddin b Joshi 26

R. I. C. Hadder o Mongia b Kurmble 56

R. I. C. Hadder o Mongia b Kurmble 56

C. O Browne not out 4

I. R. Bishop o Drawd b Joshi 17

Estras (10 5, nb 7) 12

Tental (7) widtal 252 WEST INDIES: First innings

Total (7 wids) _______252 FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-32, 3-40, 4-82, 5-224, 6-230, 7-252 CELAmbrose, FARose and "CAWaish to

bal.

90WLING: Prasad 19-4-43-1; Kuruvilla.

90WLING: Prasad 19-4-43-1; Kuruvilla.

17-1-50-1; Kurnble 31-13-86-2; Josh 19.3-6-64-2; Ganguly 3-0-24-0.

INDIA: V V S Laxman, A D Jadeja, R S Drawd. *S R Tendulkar, S C Ganguly. M Acharuddin. S Joshi, 1N R Mongia. A R Kurnble, A Kuruvilla, B K V Prasad Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and B C Cooray (Sn Lanks)

Sharjah Cup Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe

SHARJAH (Zimbabwe won toss), Zir babwe beat Sri Lanka by 50 runs ZIMBABWE G W Flower low to Natpage

D P Viljoen si Kaluwitharana b Chandana22 H H Streak c Mahanama b Chandana . 14 E A Brandes not out A Whittali low b S A de Silva .. E Malambanadzo c Mahanama

*A Ranatunga c A Flower b Strang 0 H P Tillekeratine c Viljoen b G J Whatall . 36 R S Kalpege c Metambenadon
b A R Whittall
U U Chandard b A R Whittall
M D Murainharan b Streak
K R Pushpakumara nor out

Total 153
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-59, 3-69, 4-69, 5-131, 6-148, 7-149, 8-151, 9-151
BOMLING: Brandes 6-0-24-1, Matambanadzo 5-1-18-1; Streak 8.1-2-12-2; Strang 7-3-16-2: GJ Whittall 10-0-42-1; A R Whittall 10-0-38-2

Man of the match: G J Whittafl
Umpires: C J Mitchley (South Alnca) and
S During (New Zegland). S Durne (New Zeeland). KLIALA LUMPUR: ICC Trophy (50 overs): Semi-final: Bangladesh 243-7 (Khaled Mashud 70, Amnul Islam 57) v Scotland.

CYCLING

LEGAZPIA, Spain: Tour of Basque Country: First stage (Logazpia to Legazpia, 136 km): 1, G Missaglia (ft. Mapel) 3th 15min 33sec; 2, S Houlot (Ft), 3, F Casagrande **GOLF**

BERKI-IAMSTED TROPHY: Final scores: 143: P Streeter 73, 70, 144: J Rose 74, 70, L Donald 72, 72, 147: G Wolstenholme 72, 75, 148: S Jaman 71, 77: B Mason 75, 73, R Barney 77, 71, 149: M Briggs 76, 73; A Walmunghi 75, 74

ICE HOCKEY NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Harriord 4 Buffalo 2, Montreal 2 New York Islanders 1; New York Rangers 3 Philadelphia 2; Dallas 2 Phoenix 2 (01); Vencouver 3 San Jose 2.

RUGBY FIVES

ALLEYN'S SCHOOL: National doubles chemptonships: Quarter-finals: W Enstone and N Roberts bit A Rew and J Hughes 15-2, 15-4; P Atlenson and N Austin bt P d'Ancona and B Taberner 11-15, 15-9, 15-4; B Hanton and H Buchanan bt R Carr and P Bishop 15-5, 16-15; I Fuller and D Hebden bt R Guitme and R Nagy 15-3, 15-10. Semi-intels: Ensigne and Hoberts bt Atlanson and Austin 15-2, 15-4; Fuller and Hebden bt Hanton and Buchanan 15-4, 15-3 Final Enstone and Roberts bt Fuller and Hebden 15-10, 15-4.

15-10, 15-4.

BEDFORD MODERN SCHOOL: National over-55 championships; Singles: Semi-finals: A Hughes bt B Akirson 15-7: J Denson bt GPremore 15-3 Final: Denson bt Hughes 11-2, 11-0 Doubles (round robin): 1, Denson and C Amold 55pt; 2, Akirson and J Robertson 54; 3, Prigmore and J Cooper 53

RUGBY UNION

ENGLAND COLTS (v Weish Youth at liftley Road, Oxford, April 12): R Hartley (Newcastle), L Lloyd (Leicester), S Brockfehurst (Loughborough University), J Pritchard (Beth), B Cohan (Northermpton); J Brown (Coventry), P Richards (London Insh): S Trethewey (Devorport Sandess), A Long (Bath, captain), P Saymour (Harrogate), P Budon (Chellenham), J Winterbottom (Wasps), T Butter (Leicester), L Moody (Leicester), P Ogitvie (Sanders), Replacements: R Jackson (Bedford), G Sarmuels (Beth), R Palkow (Bath), M Kavern (Penryn), C Collins (Gloucester), E Webb (Leicester), R Beattle (Newcastle)

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Fourth leg (Sydney to Cape Town, postuons at 14:02GMT yesterday, with miles to Cape Town) 1. Group 4 74. 2. Concert 78. 3. Yoshiba Wave Warrior 105; 4. Commercial Union 187; 5. Save The Children 220; 6. Motorola 226; 7. Global Tearnwork 305; 8.

SPEEDWAY

N P I PREMIERSHIP: Second leg: Wolver-hampton 58 (M.Kartsson 14, P.Kartsson 12) Petaborough 32 (J.Crump 11, K.Talum 12). Wolverhampton win 93-87 on augrecate.

TENNIS

HONG KONG: Men's tournament: First round: D Vacek (C2) bl A Volkov (Russ) 6-4, 7-5, M Rosser (Swrtz) bt N Kueter (Ger) 6-2, 6-2. J Gimelstob (US) bt H Holm (Swe) 1-5, 7-6, 6-2.

ESTORIL: Men's tournament: First round: F Clavet (Sp) bi A Gauderzi (ft) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 R Fromberg (Aus) bi A Vonea Rom) 4-8, 6-2, 6-2; F Fontang (Fr) bi M K Göliner (Ser) 7-5, 7-5; F Mantilla (Sp) bi R Carretero (Sp) 6-3, 8-1.

MADRAS: Men's tournament: First round: A Radulescu (Ger) bt G Molomura (Japan) 5-7, 6-4, 6-4; A Pavel (Rom) bt J Golmand Frif 8-3, 3-6, 7-6; O Delaître (Fr) bt J Winnink (Holf) 0-6, 6-2, 8-4

(Holf) 0-6, 6-2, 8-4

AMELIA ISLAND, Florider, Wormen's tournement: First round: R Dragoniai (Rom) by
Chladhova (Cz) 6-4, 6-2; A Coetzer (SA)
bt E Martincova (Cz) 7-5, 6-1, M
Weingartner (Ger) bt J Steck (Russ) 7-5,
6-3, 5h-Ting Wang (falwan) bt M Sema
(Sp) 4-6, 6-2, 6-1; H Nagyova (Stovaksa) bt
E Makarova (Belaj 6-1, 6-4; A Goossman
(US) bt P Langrova (Cz) 6-2, 6-4; F Labet
(Arg) bt K Kschwendt (Austra) 6-3, 6-1, C
Rubin (US) bt P Paulus (Austra) 6-3, 6-1, C
Rubin (US) bt B Paulus (Austra) 6-3, 6-1, C
Rubin (US) bt B Paulus (Austra) 6-3, 6-1, C
Rubin (US) bt G-10 Villet) (Arg) 5-7, 6-4, 6-0; P Hy-Boulais (Can) bt R McCoullien
(Aus) 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, J Kruper (Russ) bt P
Schnyder (Switz) 7-6, 5-7, 6-4; B Scheit
(Austra) bt C Moranu (Brim) 6-4, 6-1, R
Zubakova (Slovakia) bt I Gornorchalegui
(Arg) 6-4, 6-3; C Serina (II) bt M Maruska
(Austra) 7-5, 7-5, A Maureamo (Fr) bt G L
Garcia (Sp) 4-6, 7-6, 6-2

2C 4C 4S 5S 3 D 4 H 4 NT 6 NT

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ASYNDETON

PELION

a. A javelin

c. A mountain

a. Unconnected words

c. A Spartan mess club

b. A pause for effect

b. The Theban Band

North had an awkward opening bid. The problem with Two Clubs was well illustrated by what happened ---North-South rapidly consumed a lot of bidding space. Although his hand might appear too strong, North's alternative was to open One Club. That is rarely passed out, and in this case would have made it easier for North-South to arrive at the best spot of Six Diamonds.

I was West, and South was Zia Mahmood. My minor-suit holdings were worrying - it was quite likely that both suits would run. Had I held, say, a small singleton club there would have been a greater chance that my partner had a

CLASSICS

b. A battle

OPPIAN

CHAERONEA

a. A tree nymph

a. A writer on law

b. A town-dweller c. A sporting writer

c. The ferryman's wife

Contract: Six No-tru mos by South, Lead: ? trick in the suit. As Zia is quite capable of following the same auction with the king of clubs instead of the king of hearts. I

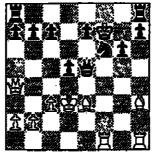
made the unusual (and disastrous) lead of the ace of hearts. In general, giving away one trick is not critical when there are two long suits to run. But here, the extra heart was Zia's twelfth trick - he made three tricks in spades, three in hearts, five in diamonds and a club. Had I led a spade, Zia would almost certainly have taken the club finesse for one

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Movsisian - Stoll, Bad Worishofen 1997. Black has gambitted a piece in a speculative attempt to expose the white king. Surprisingly, however, it is now White who scores a quick tactical

kill. Can you see how? Solution on page 46



FOOTBALL Kick-off 7.30 unless stated European Cup Semi-finals, first legs

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Ajax v Juventus Borussia Dortmund v Man Uld FA Carting Premiership Covening v Chelsas (7 45)
Derby v Southampton (7.45)
Everion v Leleaster (7.45)
Sheff Wed v Toffenham (7.45)
West Ham v Middlesbrough (7.45)
Wimbledon v Aston Villa (7 45) Nationwide League Nation Wild Institute Longitus
First division
Charlton v Huddersfield (7.45)
Manchester City v Bolton (7.45)
West Bromwich v Crystal Palece (7.45)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division:
Newport AFC v Afterstone (7.45).
Stinobourne v Beldock (7.45). Midlend
division: Corby v Shephael D: Raunds T v
Eventears: VS Rugby v Bedworth. Southern
division: Beshley v Havans.
LINIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division:
Bishop Auckland v Hyde: Boston v Look,
Krausklav v Brooom

Bishop Auckland v Hyde: Bocton v Look, Knowskiy v Runcom. Krowskiy v Runcom. Kiss LEAGUE: Premier division: Harrow v Bishop's Stordord. Second division: Metro-politan Police v Bodford T Third division: Hackwell Heath v Harlow, Lewes v Kingsbury. AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bournemouth v Swanses (2.0); Brighton v Cardili (2.0); Malwell v Tottenham (2.0); Southampton v Crystal Palace (st Steplewood, Merchwood) Leegue Cup; Wimbledon v Oxford Linked (at Plough Lane, 2 n.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Promier division PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Promier division; Stackburn v Oldham (7 0); Nottinghom Forest v Leads (7 0). First division: Port Vale v Sundarland (7 0). Second division: Bradiord v York (7 0); Strowboury v Grimsby (7 0); Stockport v Barnaley (8,45), Wirochson v Carlisle (7 0). Third division; Chesterfield v Walsall (7 0); Donascter v Chester (7,0); Rochdele v Lincoln (7 0); Wigan v Darlington (7,0) (2) BERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Com Common Westmood: Ebbw Vale v Briton Fe Bay v Welshpoot: Ebbw Vale v Briton Ferry. WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Sheppay v Foversham SCREWFX DIRECT LEAGUE: Primier

division: Brisington v Caine.
PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND (LEAGUE:
Cove v Deveroraste, Elgin v Buckie Thistle;

Forres Mechanics v Lossiamouth; Keith v Fraserburgh; Nam County v Wick Academy MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Breche Sparts v Buckington v London Coincy ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: He Ka v David Utoyd. HE LENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Highworth v Abingdon United; Wantage v Kritbury.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Aloysians v Old Ignators Aloystars v Old Ignations
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN
LEAGUE: First division: Crook v Bedington
Temers: Whitby v RTM Newcastle. NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Pirst dwision: Dawon v Hollor Old Boys: Prosoot Cables v Kidsgrove. BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier

division: Lye Town v Brierley Hill T JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Pirst of-vision: Christchurch v Portsmouth, UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Umishori um ele countres Escasore: Premier division: Mirries: Blockstore: Spotlang. University Sussex Country League: First division: Gastioume Town v Sekteen. NORTHERN COUNTRES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Hallem v Belpor Town.

FA YOUTH CUP: Semi-tinal, first leg: Luton RUGBY UNION

Courage Clubs Championship First division Harlequins y Saracens (7.30) . Four division south Weston-super-Mare v Henley (7 30) Welsh League Second division

Abertiflery v Cross Keys (7 0) RUGBY LEAGUE Second division Leigh v Bramley (7 30) ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: St Holens v

OTHER SPORT BOWLS: All England men's Indoo championships (at Melton Mowbray). cramporsnips (at Medon Moubray).
SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: King's
Lynn v Eastbourne (7.45). Poole v Peterborough (7.30). Premier Leegue Kineckout
Cup: Full v Glasgow (7.30); Long Eaten v
Reading (7.30)

Bag this



7/1 BOR. DORTMUND 2-1

5/1 DRAW

TELEPHONE CALLERS staking \$25 or more using Switch or Delta bank or building society debit cards. RING TODAY-BET TODAY 0800 44 40 40

Free sports bag will be sent orest within 7 to 10 days of your first bet being placed.

12/1 MAN, UTD. 2-0

PLIVE CHAMPIONS CUP ACTION 10/11 BOR. DORTMUND 11/5 DRAW MAN. UTD. 5/2 Kick-off 7.30pm, Live on ITV. CORRECT SCORE 5/1 BOR. DORTMUND 1-0 7/1 MAN. UTD. 1-0

12/1 MAN, UTD, 2-1 18/1 DRAW 2-2 40/1 MAN, UTD. 3-1 Other scores on request. FIRST GOALSCORER

1-1

5/1 RIEDLE (B)

10/1 MOLLER (B) 6/1 SOLKSJAER (M) 11/1 BECKHAM (M) 7/1 CANTONA (M) 14/1 GIGGS (M) 8/1 TANKO (8) 20/1 BUTT (M) Own goals do not count. Other players on request.

LATEST ODDS ON WEDSON HER TV TEXT - Telecourt on CH4 P601/662/663

Mark Hodkinson traces the great divide between Wimbledon and Halifax Town

Twilight world of the Crazy Gang's cousins

The light is on, but nobody seems to be at home. There are random signs of life, if they pass as such - two vehicles in the car park and a stack of empty milk crates by the main entrance — while, in the ground, a solitary figure in an anorak jabs the turf with a pitchlork. He points helpfully to a portable cabin at the side of the stand. You could try in there," he says.

This grey, nondescript structure is the last piece of England to remain forever Halifax Town. It is just a few yards from the pitch where the club has played for the past 75 years. Touching distance almost, except touching is not allowed, outside of a few hours every other Saturday. The pitch, the stands, the dressingrooms and everything within the natural amphitheatre belongs to the local council. Halifax Town are strangers on home ground. Calder-dale Council settled the club's debts of £375,000 in a straight swap for a lease of the football ground formerly known as The Shay.

Halifax are, of course, not the only

football club without a ground to call their own. Wimbledon, most famously, have managed extraordinarily well without a home, and this is highly appropriate, for the clubs have a special kind of kinship. They are the football equivalent of twin towns and the link goes back almost two decades, to a time when they were equals.

On Saturday, August 20, 1977, they met in the old fourth division. Wimbledon, after several gallant FA Cup runs, had replaced Workington in the league while, for Halifax, it was business as usual as they embarked upon their 47th league season. An open game ended 3-3. By virtue of beginning with the letter "H". Halifax were placed above Wimbledon in the table. They would

never be so close again.

While Wimbledon prepare to take on Chelsea in the FA Cup semi-final on Sunday, Halifax, who lost their league status in 1993, are battling against relegation from the Vauxhall Conference.

The chasm between the clubs cuts deep. Halifax have three full-time members of staff while Wimbledon have a squad recently valued at £50 million. Wimbledon's record signing is Ben Thatcher, at £1.8 million, while Halifax's is lan Juryeff, at £50,000. Wimbledon are going all out for the FA Cup and Europe, Halifax are all out for survival.

What has happened to cause these former footmen of the fourth division to have such diametrical fortunes? The simplistic response would be finance: Wimbledon have had it. Halifax have not. "That's not true," a Wimbledon spokesman said. "We might have a few bob



Hammam has masterminded Wimbledon's rise from obscurity, but Worthington, right, can only wait for Halifax Town's salvation

now, but we didn't for a long time." The spokesman asks not to be named ("Sam doesn't like us talking too much."). Sam, of course, is Sam Hammam, the Wimbledon managing director. "In Sam we have got someone who was like Churchill in the war," the spokesman continues. "He has his own little gurus who he consults, but he makes decisions without going through lots of ruddy

The choice of personnel at Wimbledon has always been inspired. From John Fashanu to Joe Kinnear. from Vinnie Jones to Dave Bassett, the club has sought the charismatic. "There's also a lot of continuity here. People stick around, especially behind the scenes, for much longer than they do at most clubs. Sam has also believed in investing in players

before anything else. We've always had a brilliant youth policy."

Continuity has not been Halifax Town's forte. They had 23 managers in the period between the Second World War and their demotion. Halifax did, however, have their own successful youth policy and this, for a long period, ensured that bills were paid more or less on time.

Pete Barrow covered their affairs for the Halifax Evening Courier during the twilight years of their league career. He believes that the disintegration of their youth programme precipitated relegation. The juniors were a good team. Bill Ayre Ithe Halifax manager from 1986 to 1990; knew everyone at the club and made them feel like they belonged. he said.

Ayre's replacement. Jim McCal-

liog, concentrated on experienced professionals and this formula was further endorsed by his replacement, John McGrath, who dissolved the youth team. Many Halifax fans saw this as a near-

In their final league season, with games running out, Halifax appointed their physiotherapist. Mick Rathbone, as team manager. "It was an inspired choice," Barrow said. "The players loved him to bits and he brought a real backs-to-the-wall attitude." Unfortunately, Rathbone was perhaps too close to the players, and some insiders felt that he was reluctant to take the substantive action required.

Halifax Town's final Football League game was against Hereford United on May 8, 1993. They needed to win but lost 1-0, the goal scored by a former Halifax player, Derek Hall. "I couldn't miss," Hall lamented. Wycombe Wanderers were promoted from the Conference and Halifax duly moved to semi-professional status. "I suppose you could say Halifax have found their level in a way," Barrow said. A ground that, in 1953, packed in nearly 37,000 for an FA Cup fifth-round tie against Tottenham Hotspur now regularly

holds less than 1,000. Barrow, a Barnsley supporter, is allowed this secular view, but to the fanatical, this assumption of a "rightful place" is anathema. Dave Worthington, the commercial manager, is one of three generations of his family who has worn the blue and white of Halifax as a player. "I just stood there devastated the day

Twenty years ago they were equals. Now the gulf goes from Wembley to the Shay

we went out," he said. "A lot of people were crying. We all went out for a few drinks afterwards, like you do in those situations,"

The Shay, at least by name, is no more. When the council acquired the lease, it became Calderdale Sports Stadium, though few refer to it as such. Derek Newiss, the club secretary and former chairman of the supporters' club, obliges with a guided tour. He has an extremely dry humour and a placid temperament; perhaps the ideal demeanour for a Halifax devotee.

The offices have the scuffed wallpaper and cigarette-end shabbiness of a taxi rank. The directors' box ("Well, we call it that") is a collection of breeze-blocks at the back of the stand. Foam is taped to the supporting joists above the wooden seats to reduce the risk of a sore head. The decor throughout is a surreal mixture of styles and ages; doors containing bubbly, frosted glass from the Sixties lead to dressingrooms with shiny wooden panelling. evoking the Thirties.

Optimism, the curse of the football fanatic, is still alive amid the decay. The heart still beats. Plans have been drawn up for Halifax Blue Sox, Town's rugby leagueplaying neighbours, to move in. The youth structure is also back in place. I took this job, thinking that we would get back in the league, and I still think that," Worthington said. "Someone will come along eventually and invest in the club.

The link with Wimbledon continues, consolidated by the efforts of Robert Holmes, an estate agent with a shop in Wimbledon Village, who has supported Halifax Town for 35 years. He holds an annual fundraising party and the most recent was attended by Kinnear. "Joe and the boys are always keen to support it," Holmes said. "They've never forgotten their roots and I think they genuinely hold a lot of affection for Halifax Town.

At some point this week, Wimbledon's fax machine will shudder into life and proffer the usual good-luck messages from Halifax Town. "We always refer to ourselves as 'your northern supporters' club'." Newiss said. The Wimbledon dream has come true and could once again embrace a visit to Wembley. The wait continues for Halifax.

Ajax offer brave face on threat posed by **Juventus**

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE European Cup semifinal between Ajax Amster-dam and Juventus tonight pits the 1995 and 1996 champions against each other and offers a repeat of last year's final. The sides were then evenly bal-anced, with Juventus only claiming the Cup on penalties. This year, though, Juventus appear to hold the trump

Even in Holland, many doubt whether Ajax can extract revenge. Last week, Jari Litmanen, the Dutch side's Finland international, rated Juventus the best club side in the world, saying they appeared even stronger than last

At the weekend Juventus appeared to prove him right with a 6-1 demolition of AC Milan, the Italian League champions, but, although Juventus start as favourites for the two-leg semi-final. Ajax's form has improved since their stuttering start to the season. Since the winter break, they are unbeaten in Europe and have a 100 per cent record in the Dutch League.

Louis van Gaal, the coach, is upbeat about his side's prospects and believes Ajax are fresher and sharper than when they lost last year's final. "If there is one team in the world that can beat Juventus, then it is us," he said.

The Turin team's only problem is the fitness of Alen Boksic, the Croat, who has a muscle strain. However, the return of Didier Deschamps should be adequate compen-

Marcello Lippi, the Juventus coach, was expected to confirm a front-line pairing of Nicola Amoruso and Christian Vieri, recently capped by Italy. Amoruso replaced Boksic in the victory over Milan and got on the scoresheet.

Ajax will probably field the team that came back to win a thrilling quarter-final second leg at Atletico Madrid with Patrick Kluivert, suspended for the match in Spain, now ruled out by injury.

Aiax expect Kluivert to be out for about a month, so he seems certain to miss the return leg in Italy, Indeed, Kluivert, who is bound for AC Milan at the end of the season. may not play for Ajax again.

Danny Blind, the defender, Marc Overmars, the midfield player, and Nordin Wooter and Dani, the strikers, are carrying slight injuries but should play. AS Roma yesterday dis-

missed Carlos Bianchi, their Argentine coach, and appointed Nils Liedholm, 74, the renowned Swedish coach, to

replace him. Bianchi, who had been in the job only since last summer, paid for a 2-1 defeat by Cagliari on Sunday which left

Roma four points adrift of a Uela Cup place. Liedholm has been chosen while Roma look for a permanent replacement - possibly

Giovanni Trapattoni, of Bayern Munich. - for next Liedholm took AC Milan to

the league championship in 1979, before guiding Roma to the title in 1983, along with three Italian Cup successes (1980, 1981 and 1983) and a European Cup final in 1984 lost on penalties to Liverpool.

Liedholm said he did not need much persuading to resome the job. "I owe Roma a lot, as a club, as a city and as fans. It's hard to coach in Italy and I'm sorry for Bianchi, who is a great coach and was a great player in his time."

Liedholm has had three previous spells as the Roma coach from 1973 to 1977, 1979 to 1984 and 1987 to 1989.

Robson ready to step forward

IN THE course of the next eight days, Middlesbrough have an FA Cup semi-final at Old Trafford and a Coca-Cola Cup final replay at Hillsborough to look forward to. The FA Carling Premiership visit to Upton Park tonight appears to be mundane in comparison, but it may be the most important game of the While Middlesbrough were

slogging it out with Leicester City at Wembley on Sunday in the Coca-Cola Cup final that ended in deadlock at 1-1. Coventry City's win at Anfield dragged the Teesside club back into the bottom three of Premiership. Although they have the games in hand to get clear of trouble by their own efforts, they must translate cup form into league performances if they are to survive. Five out of their remaining seven league games are away from home.

There was a real buzz when the players trained on Monday morning after the Wembley disappointment." Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said. Nobody wants a rest, they're all trying to impress me to get into the cup-ties, but the danger with

so many matches is that players do not have time to recover from knocks and that's when you get serious injuries."

Their programme is beginning to take its toll, with Pearson, Fleming, Emerson, Stamp and Beck all nursing injuries. So too is Fabrizio Ravanelli, who is struggling with an Achilles tendon problem and who may be missing this evening, although if surgery is needed to repair the damaged tendon, it is likely to be delayed until the end of the

Yesterday, Robson revealed that he was preparing for a return to the fray himself in



Robson: comeback

the last week of the season as the injury list lengthens. "I'm not thinking about playing in a final, but what is in my mind is to play in league matches so that I can rest players," he

West Ham also have problems, with Dicks and Moncur suspended and Williamson. Ferdinand and Breacker injured. Steve Lomas makes his debut in midfield after moving to Upton Park from Manchester City. Six weeks ago, they looked one of the

hottest candidates for relegation, but the arrival of Paul Kitson and John Hartson has produced goals and an escape Leicester are more comfort-

ably placed, but they still need a point or two for safety. Tonight, they take their tired limbs and high morale to Goodison Park, where Everton are in danger of joining the scrap to avoid relegation. Mid-dlesbrough may be short of bodies, West Ham were short of goals, but Everton are desperately short of both. The injury list worsened after Saturday, with Unsworth and Barmby both doubtful, while Short and Parkinson missed

training yesterday. We are in a situation where whoever is available gets a

game at the moment." Dave Watson, the caretaker playermanager, said. "I'd love this problem other managers seem to have of trying to decide who to leave out."

Everton's problem is that those who do play, do not score. They have netted only one goal, by Ferguson, from a recognised striker in their past seven games. Ferguson has managed eight Premiership goals all season and Barmby just four. "We've been short on goals," Watson said, "and right now I'd be happy for them to come from anyone, but it's true we haven't had a prolific 20goals-a-season man here since Gary Lineker."

Derby too need, at most, a couple of wins to be safe and they could take a big step tonight against Southampton, who return to the East Midlands after giving themselves hope at Nottingham Forest on Saturday. Southampton do score goals, but they concede them with equal alacrity. Derby's main problem might be the Manchester United syndrome - the theory is that lesser teams who heat United out so much effort into the achievement that they become easy meat for their next opponents.

McStay fights for fitness as Celtic prepare for semi-final

By Our Sports Staff

PAUL McSTAY, the Celtic captain. may miss the Tennents Scottish Cup semifinal against Falkirk on Saturday, the game dubbed the most important of the season by the club's manager. Tommy Burns.

McStay, the midfield fulcrum of Burns's team, is receiving intensive treatment on the groin injury that forced him to limp off early on in Saturday's draw with Raith Rovers and Burns admitted yesterday: "There is definitely a doubt over him." Phil O'Donnell is also

doubtful, but Burns said that he should recover from an injury to his heel in time to play and he stressed the importance of both players' availability. It has become a mega game for us," he said. The reason to be with a big club is to get involved in big games. We had to win a big game against Rangers to get into this one and we want to take full advantage of that.

"The players deserve it for their level of consistency. In most other countries, they would have a lot more to show

for it, but here there is another team called Rangers who have been even more consistent. We applaud them for that, but it should also motivate us."

Brighton will challenge the Football Association over the two-point deduction made after a pitch invasion at the club's home game against Lincoln City on October I. In a statement, the directors of the club five points adrift at the bottom of the Nationwide League third division said the mains, unfair. The club will take action through arbitration under the FA's rules or take the FA to court.

Brighton were docked the points in December, having gone into this season with a three-point suspended sentence hanging over them in the wake of the riot that caused the home match against York City to be abandoned last April. The club's appeal against the sentence was turned down in February.

Paul Peschisolido, the West Bromwich Albion striker, is considering retirement from the Canada national team

after he was sent off in a World Cup qualifying tie against El Salvador on Sunday. Peschisolido was so ashamed after being dismissed during Canada's 0-0 draw that he felt the best way to make amends was to resign

from the squad. In a statement, Peschisolido said that he did not speak to the media after the match because he was "both angry and embarrassed". "I under stand that I have let my team and my manager down and I deeply regret the sending-off incident," he said. Peschisolido has been sent

off three times while playing for Canada. His expulsion on Sunday means he is automatically suspended for Canada's next game in the Concacaf zone qualifiers, which is against Jamaica on April

Trevor Morley, the Reading top scorer with 23 goals this season, will be out of action for up to six months after being told he needs surgery on the knee ligaments that he damaged against Barnsley on Easter Monday.

CRICKET

Scotland chasing stiff target

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN KUALA LUMPUR

RAIN, which has dogged the later stages of the ICC Trophy. allowed the completion of only one innings in yesterday's second semi-final. Bangladesh posting a formidable 243 for seven against Scotland.

Bangladesh, coached by Gordon Greenidge, increased their run-rate throughout their 50 overs, Khaled Mashud and Aminul Islam making half-centuries before Minhajul Nannu weighed in with 39 not out from 31 balls.

To win and claim a World

Cup berth when the match resumes at the Kilat Club this morning, Scotland must score more than any other team has managed batting second on these slow matting pitches. If the ICC had counted on

the artificial surfaces being able to cope with the seasonal rains, they had not allowed for saturated outfields such as the one that confronted the umpires when they arrived at the ground.

A helicopter was summoned to dry out the swampiest areas but when play got under way midway through the afternoon, there were still parts of the ground that would have been deemed casual water on a golf course.

Scotland continued with the tactic of opening the bowling with a sputner and Ian Beven delivered a tidy ten overs and collected a couple of wickets for 29 runs.

Stuart Kennedy was again the model of economy with his

little medium-pacers and fig-ures of no wicket for 24 would have been even better but for II coming off his final over. The game got away from

George Salmond's team dur-ing a third-wicket partnership of 115 in 25 overs between Mashud and Islam that threatened a score nearer 300 than 250. But when John bowled Islam for 57, wickets fell quickly before Nannu raised the spirits of his team's 2,000 supporters.

It would be premature to write off such a quietly efficient team as Scotland, but it now seems likely that they will have to play off against Ireland tomorrow to decide which team gets the third and final World Cup place.

BOWLS

Strong finishes see Bentham into final

TONY ALLCOCK, the world outdoor singles champion, has helped his Bentham club colleagues, Richard Shergold and Andy Wills, overcome a succession of unpromising starts to reach the final of the national indoor triples championship (David Rhys Jones

Against Newquay, skipped by Tim Phillips, Bentham turned a 9-6 deficit into a 20-9 victory, but dropped the first seven shots against Darlington. After 11 ends, they were II-7 adrift and Darlington still led 12-11 after 13.

A 1-1-1-4-2 sequence saw them home, 20-12, setting up a quarter-final encounter with Teignbridge, skipped by the England player, John Wyckham. Teignbridge raced into a 9-2 lead by the sixth end, but Allcock's men piled up 18 shots to Wyckham's four over the next nine ends, putting themselves almost beyond reach at 20-13, then survived a spirited late rally to win 20-18.

Patience brought its reward in the semi-final, too, when Bentham scored telling counts of five and four on their way to an 18-17 victory over South Forest.

In today's final, Bentham will face Andrew Manton, Ian Walker and Mick Sharpe, of Kingsthorpe, who scraped past Blackpool Borough, the 1994 champions, in the quar-ter-final, and got home, 21-16, against Desborough, Maidenhead, in the semi-final.





Woods plays out of a bunker during practice for the Masters yesterday. His game is well-suited to Augusta National. Photograph: Blake Sell

Woods focuses on the big issue rather than colour supplement

or Tiger Woods, golf's latest prodigy, the Masters is indeed special. On the one hand. the glorious prize of finishing first six months after turning professional is within his grasp because Augusta National golf course could scarcely be better suited to his own particular talents if he had designed it himself. On the other hand, the fabled club in Georgia, the Deep South of the United States, until recently stood for racial prejudices of the sort that Woods, an Afro-Asian, found unacceptable

television advertisements. Woods has turned golf on its ear since he turned professional last summer, winning three of his first nine tournaments. Yet nothing would compare with the effect a victory by Woods in the 61st Masters. which starts tomorrow, would have.

and criticised in a series of

It would come in an event in which no black golfer was invited to play until Lee Elder qualified in 1975. When he did so, the caddies at Augusta went to the 1st tee and lined his path. And it would come at an event where, until 1983, every

CHAERONEA

OPPIAN

ASYNDETON

birthplace of Plutarch.

John Hopkins, golf correspondent, on the Masters hopes of a man trying to put the game before questions of race

caddie was black, reinforcing every racial stereotype. Though to most eyes, the white, wooden clubhouse and the flowering shrubs of Augusta are a thing of beauty, to some the club is a place they could barely tolerate. Lee Trevino, for example,

found Augusta so unsympathetic that he rarely, if ever, went into the locker-room. Trevino, whose left-to-right style of play and tendency to hit a low hall were not suited to the course, would change his shoes before and after a round in his car, as if he was competing at a municipal course.

Woods, the son of an American father and a Thai mother. learnt about racial prejudice early when they were the only multiracial family in an allwhite neighbourhood in California. Woods was the only black child in his kindergarten class and older white children once tied him to a tree and taunted him.

So there was real edge to the

WORD-WATCHING

(b) In Boeotia. The scene of the defeat of the Thebans and

Athenians by Philip of Macedon in 338BC. The battle "fatal to liberty" referred to in Milton's sonnet To the Lady Margaret Ley. Sulla defeated Mithridates here in 86BC. Chaeronea was the

(c) Of Cilicia. Author of the time of Caracalla (AD211-217) of a Greek didactic poem in five books, entitled *Halieutica*, on fish and fishing. Another didactic poem, in four books, on hunting (Cynegetica), is attributed to him, but appears to be by an author

of the same name and period, but a native of Apamea in Syria.

(a) "Not bound together." A figure of speech in which words or clauses that in ordinary speech would be connected by conjunctions are left unconnected. For example, Quintilian

quotes a lost passage from Cicero: "Quaero ab inimicis, sintne haec investigata, comperta, patefacta, sublata, deleta, extincta per

(c) A wooded mountain near the coast of Thessaly. According to Greek mythology, the giants Otus and Ephialtes piled it on top of Ossa, and then Ossa onto Olympus, in their attempt to get at the gods to overthrow them. [This was odd, since the gods lived on Olympus.]

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

| Rxf6+! exf6 (1 ... Qxf6 2 Rf1 is hopeless, as is 1 ... Kxf6 2 Bd4) 2 Qd7+ with a quick mate, e.g. 2 ... Qe7 3 Be6+ Kf8 4 Bh6+.



advertisements for Nike in which Woods appeared soon after turning professional.

There are still courses in the United States that I am not allowed to play because of the colour of my skin," Woods said. The advertisements were soon withdrawn but Woods's point had been made. Before him, the successes of Elder, Calvin Peete, Jim Dent and other blacks merely heightened the impression that golf was predominantly a game for whites who had grown up in American country clubs.

Woods was asked recently whether Augusta National was one of the clubs he was

referring to in those advertisements. His response was illuminating. The hitherto relaxed tone of his voice changed and his answer was terse. "No, it's just another tournament to me," he said. "I am going to go over there and treat it as such. I'm going to go over there and try to win it." Last year Jack Nicklaus said

that Woods should win the

Masters more times than he

and Arnold Palmer combined.

a total of ten. It was an anointing from a god and Woods was flattered. Though Woods has not broken par at Augusta in the six rounds he has played and missed the cut last year, he has all the attributes needed to cope here. "I hit the ball a long way from the tee and I hit the ball very high," Woods said. "You do not see a lot of low-ball hitters doing well because the

greens are so hard." This means that Woods can play his approach shots to the greens with short irons, hitfing the ball high so that it

he gives himself the best possible chance of achieving the accuracy on the greens that Augusta requires.

In practice, Woods has received advice from Fred Couples, Ray Floyd, Nicklaus and Palmer, former champions all. He has spent hours watching videos of past events and steeped himself in the tournament's history. "The danger for me is overdoing it, trying too hard and losing patience," Woods said. "But I know how to focus. I've done it before."

Nick Faldo said it took him four or five years before he felt comfortable at Augusta. There is a learning curve here," he said yesterday. "It takes discipline, aggression, caution and patience. This is the 1990s, the media age and Tiger is a phenomenon. There is a lot of pressure on him but there again he has had a lot of attention since he was born."

What a story victory by Woods would be. Not least because it would come 50 years almost to the day after Jackie Robinson began playing Major League baseball. Robinson, remember, was the first black player to do so.

Norman determined to atone

GREG NORMAN said yesterday that he wanted his 1996 Masters collapse to be consigned to history. I know I gave you a pretty good story last year, but now I hope to give you a better one," Norman said of his last-round 78 that allowed Nick Faldo to win by five shots after Norman had led by six overnight.

The world No I described it as "the worst round of my life", but said it was now behind him and that he would never discuss it again. "I want the old story to finish after this interview," Norman said. "I created it, but from now on I will create different issues. "I want to play the game the

thinking about your worst round, you'll keep playing rubbish, so I'm thinking about my great rounds.
"I feel sorry for Nick as I

don't think he has had the credit. He put in a great performance, put pressure on me and did all the right things. But I know I can be in that position again.

way I know I can. If you keep SPORT IN BRIEF

Lola move towards quick return

LOLA, the Huntingdon-based motor racing team, could return to Formula One just weeks after withdrawing from the world champion-ship. The team pulled out before the Brazilian Grand Prix last month, but may be set for a comeback in time for the San Marino Grand Prix at

Imola on April 27.
Eric Broadley, the team manager, said yesterday that he was hoping to secure a deal that would enable the cars to reappear. The team withdrew after their Ford-powered cars failed to qualify for the Australian Grand Prix.

Cricket: Curtly Ambrose became only the third West Indian to achieve the double

of 100 wickets and 1,000 runs in Tests yesterday as his side was bowled out for 333 just before lunch in Antigua on the fifth and final day of the fourth Test against India.

India's opening batsmen safely negotiated four overs before the interval to finish on three without loss. Ambrose joined Sir Garfield Sobers and Malcolm Marshall, the West Indies coach, on the exclusive list.

Equestrianism: The Windsor infernational Horse Trials, an intermediate standard event that takes place from May 22 to 25 in Windsor Great Park, began a new phase in its 17-year history with the announcement of a

three-year sponsorship contract with Chubb Insurance. The sponsorship, announced by the Princess Royal, the president of the trials, has enabled the organisers to make significant changes to the cross-country course.

Tennis: Richard Krajicek, the Wimbledon champion from Holland, beat Tomas Nydahl, of Sweden, in straight sets on his return after injury in the first round of a men's tournament in Madras yesterday.

Motor cycling: Carl Fogarty, the former world superbike champion, was quickest on the opening day of a two-day test at the Misano circuit, in Italy, yesterday.

TELEVISION CHOICE

A very natural selection

Seven Wonders of the World BBC2, 7.00pm

Playing the wonders game tonight is Richard Dawkins, the Oxford biologist and expert on evolution. Sue 'awley introduces him as a controversial figure, whose fluency and clarity has been mistaken for intellectual arrogance. But there is little that is contentious in either his choice of wonders or his justifications for them. Unsurprisingly, evolution bulks large. He says he would have chosen natural selection as one of his seven, had it not already appeared in the series. Instead, he makes do with two exceptional evolutionary examples, the web of the spider and the ear of the bat. Man-made wonders include digital codes and the parabolic reflector in giant telescopes. Dawkins steps aside from science to celebrate the fast and nimble fingers of the concert pianist and to pay homage to that great communicator, Sir David Attenborough.

BBC2, 7_30pm

Scott Sherrin was a talented young performer whose career embraced West End theatre (Cats and the lead role in Fame), playing in the Royal Variety Show with Gene Kelly and joining Esther Rantzen's team on That's Life. But a year ago his body was dragged from the Thames. He was 23 and although the inquest returned an open verdict, it seemed that he had been driven by mental illness to end his life. As Rianna Scipio's report shows, Sherrin suffered because he was black but not in the usual way. As a halvy he was adopted by white the usual way. As a baby he was adopted by white parents and the film suggests that because of this he was never accepted in the black community. To them he was not black enough. He also had his fill of prejudice from whites. It is a deeply tragic story, told with sadness and compassion.

Radio 4, 8.05pm

You could call it Blue Peter for grown-ups, for not only does the show have a relentless jollity. exemplified by its presenter. Tessa Shaw, but it is wonderful for coming up with bright ideas that cost next to nothing. Want to cheer up a dreary blind? All you need is a sponge dipped in emulsion

Music under Dictatorships

Hang on a minute! Haven't some folk at the BBC got their networks in a twist? A series blending musicology and political history, not on Radio 3, but on Radio 4? No, that's what our radio listings say (see below) and that's exactly what they mean. But, whatever the network, Michael Oliver's fourpart series about how music fared under repressive 20th-century regimes makes up a fascinating catalogue of surreal proscriptions. Episode one deals with the Nazis. I knew that Hitler couldn't get enough of Wagner. What I didn't know was that he banned jazz music because he said it was Jewish. or that he ordered the Germanising of the words of Verdi's librettist da Ponte because he was a bapused Jew.

RADIO 1

7,00am Mark Radcliffe, includes 7,30 Newsbeat 9,00 Smon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session with Steve Lamacq 8.30 Global Update 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00em Claire Sturgess 4.00 Clive Warren

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jmmy Young 1.30pm Debble Thrower 3.00 Ed Slawart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Nick Barrackough 9.00 Jim Lloyd 9.00 The Music of Japan (4/4) 9.00 As Time Goes By. An adaptation of his TV sitcom by Bob Larbey 10.00 Explorer II 10.30 Richard Alinson 12.05em Steve Madden 3.00 Alex

RADIO 5 LIVE

The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra with Valence Singleton 7.20 Trevor Brooking's Football Night. Borussia Dortmund v Manchester United Including the results of the National National Results of the National National Results of the National National Results National N National Lottery draw 10,00 Brian Hayes's Election Night 12.00 After Hours with John Diamond 2.05am Up Ali Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dealey 7.00 Moz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Colins

The Home Front team (BBC2, 8.30pm)

paint and off you go. Never mind that the result looks ghastly. The main thing is that it is different and cheap. At a guess the series is aimed at youngish, middle-class professionals with a penchant for garish colours. That, at least, is the deduction from many of the items, such as tonight's exercise in giving a facelift to bathrooms. The best part of the real series as of the lost The best part of the new series, as of the last, promises to be the running report on a couple's restoration of their period home, in this case a 300-

Modern Times: Brainstorm

BBC2, 9.00pm Profiling four victims of job-related stress, Dev Profiling four victims of job-related stress, Dev Varma's film is a devastating critique of a modern business culture that pushes people to the limit and sometimes beyond. Martyn Sheppard ran a corner shop with his wife. His troubles started when a supermarket opened nearby and took away a third of his business. Working 70-hour weeks could not save him. Dr Terence Hirst was a successful GP for 23 years until he moved into fundholding and for 23 years until he moved into fundholding and was crushed by the extra paperwork. Ray Willox found himself under increasing pressure at the Department of Social Security and eventually cracked. Christopher James had a bright career in British Gas until huge job cuts forced him to work longer and longer hours. The casualty rate is shocking. One of the four killed himself, another tried to and a third disappeared. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Imperial Palace Radio 4, 12.25pm

and Colleen Prendergast.

Except for one or two that have withered when lifted, Arnold Bennett's novels tend to flourish when transplanted in radio soil. The dialogue, as originally penned, makes extremely good listening, so adapters need not feel inadequate about leaving Bennett's words intact. Also, many of his characters give actors plenty of room to move about inside their skins. On both counts, Peter Ling's dramatisation of Imperial Palace gets off to a pleasing start. Imperial Palace is a fashionable hotel in the London of the 1930s, and we follow the fortunes of its staff and well-heeled paying guests. The period atmosphere is accurately caught in Enyd Williams's direction. The cast includes Robin Ellis

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST News on the hour. 5.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Chen (8/8) 7.30 Discovery 8.10 Words of Faith 8.16 Global Shake-Out 9.07 World News 9.15 Andy Kershaw 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.30 One Planet 11.30 Andy Nestrew 9.46 Sports Routing 10.30 CH Platin 11.30 Sports International 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Composer of the Month 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Megamix 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Global Shake-Out 4.15 World Today 4.30 BBC English 4.45 Britain Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.30 Discovery 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 Multitrack 9.15 Britain Today 0.30 Medicine Oc. Serven 4.03 World Today 1.36 Sport 9.30 Meridian On Screen 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sport 11.10 Science View 11.15 Country Style 11.30 Multitrack 12.30am From Our Own Correspondent 12.45 Britain Today 1.30 Outlook 1.55 Words of Faith 2.30 Assignment 3.15 Sport 3.30 Merkian Books 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 7.00 Mike Read 10.00 Henry Keth 1.00mm Concerto Telement (Concerto for Torring) and 1.Julpan Concerto Leemann (Concerto for Furripet and Strings in Emmor): Defius (Piano Concerto in C minor) 3.00 Jamie Cnck 7.00 Classic Newsnight 7.30 Sonata, Hummel (Piano Sonata No 1) 8.00 Evening Concert Bach (Musical Offering for flute, 1 wolfins & continuo BWV1079), Mozart (Divertimento K229 No 2); Carl Mana von Weber (Grand Duo Concertant Op 48); Tchaikovsky (String Sextet Op 70, Souvenir de Florence) 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Russ 'n' Jono 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Home 6.00 Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Randal Lee Rose

**

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes
Haydh (Symphony No 90 in C); Shostakovich
(Prelude and Fugue Op 87 No 6); Rodrigo
(Concierto Andaluz)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes
Schumann (Overture, Scherzo and Finale); Haydh
(Piano Trio in E. H XV 18); Loeffler (La Mort de

Intagles)
Intagles)
Intusical Encounters, with Piers Burton-Page,
Includes Shostakovich (Prelude and Fugue, Op 87
No 14); Haydn (Symphorry No 50 m C); Brahms
(Martenlieder); Schubert (Piano Sonala in G,

12.00 Composer of the Week: Rozsa
1.00pm Concert Hall, Live from the Wigmore Hall,
London, Palladian Ensemble, Turini (Sonala a tre).

London, Paliadian Ensemble Turini (Sonata a tre), Uccelhri (Ciaccona); Corali (Sonata in E); Kapsberger (Ballo); Telemann (Sonata in G for viol and contruo; Sonata in C for recorder and contruo); Bach (Goldberg Canons, BWV1087)

2.00 Michweek Cholce, with Susan Sharpe, Includes Hold (Four songs for voice and violin)

4.00 Choral Evensong, Live from Blockburn Cathedral

5.00 Music Machine, with Luke Cresswell

5.15 In Turne, with Jeremy Nicholas, Includes

listeners' questions to Labour's Robin Cook. Call 0345 514 614

listeners' questions to Labour's Robin Cook. Call 0345 514 614

10.00 News; Viewing Essential (FM). Another look at the stresses of moving house

10.00 Daily Service (LW)

10.15 On This Day (LW)

10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray

11.30 Gardeners' Question Time (t)

12.00 News; You and Yours, with Lesky Riddoch

12.25pm Imperial Patace. See Choice 12.55 Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers (t) 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; My Way, by Georgia Pritchett (t)

2.45 Tressure Islands. Kit Winght unravels the secrets of writing for children

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Gambacchi sees

The People vs Lany Flynt and Michael Billington prepares for his own first night

4.45 Short Story: Bycles, by Carlo Gebler, read by Sean Baker

Beethoven (Overture The Creatures of Prometheus): Godowsky (Kunstlerleben)

7.30 Towards the Millennium. The London Sinfonietta presents two classic expeniential vocal works. Comelius Cardew (Great Learning, Paragraph 1): Director Daryl Runswick, Michael Chant, organ. Stockhausen (Stimmung): London Sinfonietta Voices, conductor Teny Edwards

9.45 The Undertakting. The American poet Thomas Lynch talks about his work as an undertaker 10.00 Ensemble. Penry Gore introduces two violin sonatas played by Tasmin Little and Piers Lane, plano. Beethoven (Violin Sonata in A, Op 30 No 1), Dohnanyl (Violin Sonata in C sharp minor, Op 21)

Beethoven (Overture The Creatures of

10.45 Night Waves. Michele Roberts reports on the

Night Waves. Micriele Hoberts reports on the English National Opera's new production of Berliot's setting of *The Damnation of Faust* reuniting David Alden and Mark Elder as director and conductor Bonaventura Bottone sings Faust and Milliard Wilder offers the died Memberstrated and Willard White plays the devil Mephistophe

11.30 Composers of the Week: Amy Beach (r)

12.30am Jazz Notes. Digby Fairwainer Infroduces
Henry Lowther's group Still Waters in session

1.00am Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer 6.30 Today, includes Thought for the Day 8.58 Weather
 9.00 News 9.05 Election Call. Feter Sissons puts

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Brain of Britain. The first round of the nationwide general knowledge quiz chaired by Robert Robinson (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Coroner. Another behind-the-scenes look at the West Yorkshire Coroner's office (3/5)
8.05 Music under Dictatorships. See Choice
8.35 When Mary Met Solly. Sue Margolls explores the attraction between Calfrotics and Jews (r)
9.00 Costing the Earth. Mark Whitaker reports from Northern Ireland
9.30 Katekloscope (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lusting
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Go-Between, by
LP. Harley Read by John Rowe (3/10) (r)
11.00 The Skivers. The cornedy sketch show with Nick Golson and Tim de Jongh (r)
11.30 Doon Your Way, With Doon Mackichan, Pam Feris and Lesley Sharp (r)
12.00 News 12.30 mm The Late Book: Never Marry a Mendcan, by Sandra Cisneros, read by Rita Moreno (r)

12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamera.

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APRIL ISSUE, ON SALE NOW.

I'm sure I know that face from somewhere

small minority who didn't much like Murder One (BBC2), largely because I couldn't bear the preposterous perfor-mance turned in by Daniel Benzali as Ted Hoffman, the unflappable, infallible and follicle-free lawyer at the story's heart. Growl, growl, he went, delivering every syllableperfect line in a theatrical stagewhisper that might have been all right in Stratford-upon-Avon but which stood out like a sore throat

in downtown Los Angeles. Anyway. nobody else agreed with me and I forgot all about it until last night, when the series returned ... without Benzali. Apparently just about everybody agreed with me in America (that's what comes of watching too much imported television) including Steve Bochco, its creator. At a stroke, Hoffman was history. They weren't quite scraping his name off the door when the new series began, but they weren't far off.
"Mr Hoffman is out of the country." lied Louis, the camp office manager. "Ted's putting his marriage first," explained Justine who, for those who have forgotten, is the pretty one. It was all too for Chris Docknovitch Why are we maintaining the fiction that Ted is coming back?" Presumably just in case the net-works don't like his replacement, James Wyler (Anthony La Paglia). But I have a feeling they will.

Wyler, you see, is a normal human being — or as close to a normal human being as you get on American television. That means he's way too handsome, wins every argument and when he's having trouble getting a bank loan approved...he seduces his way too beautiful bank manager. Frankly, I liked him from the moment he got an over-aggressive police officer to punch him on the nose and promptly won his final

case as assistant district attorney. The reason it was his final case changed sides to become head honcho at what will shortly become Wyler & Associates brings us to the plot, which already is almost too complicated to explain.

e left the DA's office because he had been de-liberately overlooked for promotion by his boss, Roger Garfield, who is running for the because he had been degovernorship of California Garfield's opponent is Tom Van Allen. or rather he was until Van Allen, the incumbent, became Van Allen, the permanently recumbent, after being shot in the head while in bed with his mistress. The police say a former girlfriend did it and Wyler landed the high profile job of defending her. The only problem? She says she did it, too.

Complicated it is and high-art it

definitely isn't. Some of the lighter

moments are awkwardly scripted and the babe-quota is more Aaron Spelling than Bochoo, but the recasting was faultlessly handled and the storyline quickly proved enjoyably addictive. My one real reservation is having the main baddie played by Ralph Waite, the actor best known as the gooder-than-God, Pop Walton. Casting against type, I think it's called. Previous incarnations were a bit

REVIEW

Matthew

Bond

of a problem in last night's Peak Practice (ITV). Having Valerie Gogan (who as Alex slid off a cliff and out of Hamish Macheth a year ago) play the terminally busy Melissa was one thing, but having her told she was also terminally ill by Ralph Riach, better known as Lochdubh's Television John, was quite another. But they got away with it, helped

by the fact that James Stevenson, the writer, had come up with one of the best serious subplots for some time. The newly married Melissa appeared to be pregnant. Congratulations, said Dr Erica. Didn't want it, said Melissa, far too busy. Boo, hiss we went at home. Five minutes later, it turned out that her symptoms were actually of ovarian cancer. Boo, hoo we went at home. Good performances from Gogan and from Alex Hanson, playing her husband, another actor whose face seemed strangely familiar. From a recent Dr Finlay?

As for the sillier running stories - Erica currently fancies Andrew more than Andrew fancies Erica, and if The Beeches doctors bang on about fund-holding much more they risk being taken off the air until after the election. Last night, they had Dr Shearer (Adrian Lukis) to thank for maintaining political balance: "I'm never going to be a great fan of fund-holding [sharp intake of breath at Central Office], but I have to admit it does have some advantages." Phew.

f they gave out Bafta awards for most unexpected documen-tary, then Witness: Tottenham Ayatollah (Channel 4) would walk away with one. On paper it looked a disaster: Jewish journalist beards Islamic fundamentalist and rabid anti-Semite in his North London den. On television, it was one of the most watchable documentaries that Channel 4 has turned out for some time.

True, Jon Ronson had been somewhat economical with the truth - he didn't tell Omar Bakri Mohammed he was Jewish and he certainly didn't tell him what he intended to do with the film -- but nor did Ronson ruthlessly exploit the access that his dishonesty won him. What he delivered was a sort of Islamic version of Citizen Smith, a film detailing the mundane logistics of planning a revolution - the trips to Office World for photocopying and to the cash-and-carry for collection jars. Omar chose large Coca-Cola bottles. "I thought you were against Western capitalism?" asked Ronson, whose narration was beautifully underwritten and very funny. But I'm not against the packaging," replied the pragmatic Omar, who quickly had Ronson doubling as his chauffeur. In the back seat the funda-mentalist sneezed. "Gesundheit." wished his straight-faced driver.

6.00am Business Breakfast (62809) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (70833712)

9.05 Election Call As the general election approaches, leading politicians answer questions posed by the public, beginning with Labour MP Robin Cook (9532083) 10.00 Style Challenge (47915)

11.00 News (T) regional news and weather 11.05 The Really Useful Show (1) (9262538)

10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (47557)

11.05 the room, at (6686712) 12.00 News (T) regional news and weather

> 12.05pm Cali My Bluff (5048644) 12.35 Good Living presented by Jane Asher (9879915)

1.00 News (T) and weather (60354) 1.30 Regional News (50416199)

1.45 The Weather Show (39907606)

1.50 Neighbours (1) (22834354) 2.15 Quincy (r) (3949267)

3.00 Through the Keyhole (3489) 3.30 Playdays (r) (6184625) 3.50 Monster Cafe (r) (6245731) 4.05 The New Yogi Bear Show (9179647) 4.10 Gadget Boy (8274915) 4.35 Out of Tune (r) (7506915)

5.00 Newsround (T) (5257064) 5.10 Blue

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (631793) 6.00 News (T) and weather (644) 6.30 Regional News Magazine (996)

7.00 How Do They Do That? A 60-year-old who has become one of the fastest men on ice; specially trained dogs for the deaf; the most daring London's Burning stunt to date (T) (8170)

7.30 Tomorrow's World Research into how aeroplane designs can be improved upon to protect them from strikes of lightning; skis with built-in suspension (T)

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8.00 The National Lottery Live (858129) 8.15.25 Years of the Two Ronnies Last in series (r) (T) (840267)

8.55 Points of View (527828)

9,55 Party Election Broadcast by the Conservative Party (T) Followed by National Lottery Update (460354) 10.00 They Think it's All Over in the first of a

new senes of the quiz. Nick Hancock is joined by regulars David Gower, Gary Lineker, Rory McGrath and Lee Hurst. The guests are Alan Davies and Phil Tutnell (T) (94248)

10.30 Sportsnight introduced by Ray Stubbs.
Includes Football: A preview of Sunday's FA Cup semi-finals at Highbury and Old Trattord, as Chelsea meet Wimbledon, and Middlesbrough take on second division Chesterfield; Greyhound Racing: Live coverage of the 1997 TV Trophy Final at Birmingham's Hall Green, Athletics: A look lorward to Liz McColgan's attempt to repeat her winning run of 12 months ago in Sunday's London Marathon (19278)

11.30 Vigilante Cop (1991) Adventure with Terry O'Quinn and Dale Midkiff. Directed by Mel Damski (37847) 1.00am Weather (6623923)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes wideoPlus+ and the vioce Programme isting are Video PlusCode* numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+* handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme your wish to record. Videoplus+ (**), Pluscode (**) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd. 6.00am Open University: Miles of Alsles (2426625) 6.25 Artists in Logic: Computers in Wood (2438460) 6.50 Just Seventeen: The Geometry of Patterns (5370737) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T) (8220538) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (4304793) 7.55 The Lowdown (T) (5806267) 8.20 Secret Life of Toys (r) (3398286) 8.35 The Raccoons (9024625) 9.00 Cartoon (2177731) 9.10 Enchanted Tales, Snow White (8842063) 10.00 Teletubbles (45557) 10.30 The

Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (1323354) 11.15 Alias Smith and Jones (r) (5473278) 12.00 The Flintstones (24489) 12.30pm Working Lunch (44731) 1.00 Secret Life of Toys (r) (29693642)

1.15 A Passion for Angling (r) (2556712) 2.05 Going, Going, Gone (36404002) 2.35 The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (4128996) 3.00 News 3.05 Campaign Roadshow (T) (9920847) 3.55 News 4.00

Blockbusters (6811373) 4.25 Ready Sleady, Cook (6814460) 4.55 Esther Surviving complete isolation (8313712) 5.25 Today's the Day (3333192) 5.55 Turning Points (r) (642080)

6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (r) (T) (409828)

6.45 Trev and Simon's Transmission Impossible (589489)



Zoologist Richard Dawkins (7.00pm)

7.00 Seven Wonders of World Richard Dawkins selects his personal wonders (T) (6712)

7.30 Black Britain A black actor who killed himself (T) (422) 8.00 University Challenge St Catherine's, Cambridge, v Exeter College, Oxford, for a place in the quarter-finals (T) (5460)

8.30 Home Front Home improve-ment show (T) (1267) 9.00 Modern Times: Brainstorm
The stories of four businessmen whose stressful lifestyles led them to take drastic action to escape the rat-race

(T) (515915) 9.50 A Woman Called Smith Twenty-five-year-old Debbie's marriage (T) (450977) 10.00 Airport Drama unlurls at Heathrow as Bill Clinton emerges from his plane

surrounded by bodyguards (r) (25118)

10.30 Election Broadcast: Conservative (1) 10.35 Newsnight (T) (477002) 11.30 The Kingdom (5/5) (678064)

12.25am Weather (3329671) 12.30-6.00 The Learning Zone: Currents Weather in the oceans (14233) 1.00 Predicting climate changes (83887) 1.30 Sea Level fluctuations (17774) 2.00 Language Season: Germany and Italy (98855) 4.00 BBC Focus: How accurate is history? (64213) 4.30 Unicef in the Classroom (82590) 5.00 Basic Skills (1/3) (62294) 5.30 Voluntary Matters

EUROSPORT

UK GOLD

7.30em Rally Red (51644) 8.00 Football (98335) 9.00 IndyCar (61793) 10.30 Motorcycling (49335) 11.00 Relly Rad (17151) 11.30 Football (96625) 1.00pm Baskettall (31880) 1.30 Snowboarding (9863) 2.00 Cycling (2170) 2.30 Live Cycling (43712) 4.00 Tennis (53199) 5.30 Motors (538917) 7.00 Trial (10644) 8.30 Darls (33489) 9.30 Relly Rad (70795) 10.00 Cesting (43105) 11.00 Tennis (33460)

7.00mm Tellystack (1517170) 7.35 Neighbours (5195847) 8.00 Crossroads (3193064) 8.25 EastEnders (6531286) 9.00 The Bit (3317846) 9.39 Don't War. Up

6.00am GMTV (6710460) 9.25 Chain Letters (T) (3659083) 9.55 Regional News (T) and weather

10.00 The Time, the Place (32083)

10.30 This Morning (T) (61131731) 12-20pm Regional News (T) (4492199) 12.30 News (T) and weather (9865712) 12.55 Shortland Street (9873731) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (64242606)

1.50 Afternoon Live including Remote Control Cooking with Andrew Nutter 2.20 Vanessa: I'm Dying (T) (80319511) 2.50 Afternoon Live including David Emanuel

transforming viewers' images (5048002) 3.20 News (T) (7790002) 3.25 Regional News (T) and weather

(7799373) 3.30 Tots TV (6236083) 3.40 Alphabet Castle (r) (9894538) **3.50** Sooty and Co (r) (6199557) **4.10** Animaniaes (T)(9145880) **4.20** Pinky and the Brain (T) (5379712) **4.40** Harry's Mad (r) (8311354) 5.10 Eruption! the Making of Dante's Peak

5.40 ITN Evening News (T) (Followed by Regional News) (T) (814199)

6.00 Home and Away Marilyn has difficulties with Chloe in line at the salon (r) (T) 6.25 HTV Weather (661422)

6.30 HTV News (553064)

6.45 Party Election Broadcast by the Conservative Party (T) (474118) 6.50 Emmerdale Seth waits to hear what Kim has left him in her will (682915)

7.20 Uefa Champions League Live: Borussia Dortmund v Manchester United Bob Wilson introduces coverage of the first leg of the Champions League semi-final Commentary by Brian Moore



Bad news for Mavis Wilton (9.30pm)

9.30 Coronation Street Mavis receives temble news (T) (28793) 10.00 News at Ten (T) and weather (12644) 10.30 Regional News (T) (393731)

10.40 ln Suspicious Circumstar (451064) 11.40 Uefa Champions' League Semi-Final Highlights (885002)

12.45am Movie Club (38294) 1.15 Real Highway Patrol (35107)

1.45 In the Line of Duty: Mob Justice (1991)
Crime thriller with Tony Danza and Ted
Lavine. Directed by Peter Markle (683126) 3.35 Not Fade Away (2865590)

4.30 The Time, the Place (r) (86316) 5.00 Coronation Street (r) (59720) 5.30 News (22045)

As HTV West except: 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9873731) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1622083)

6.25-6.45 Central News (419996) 12.45am Dating the Enemy (580836) 1.45 Funky Bunker (988300) 2.45 The Chart Show (4846652)

3.40 Comedy Central (2784671) WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except 12.55 Home and Away (2177354) 1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (70849354) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1622083) 6.00-6.45 Westcountry Live (496354)

MERIDIAN As HTV West except: 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9873731)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1622083) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (430489) 6.20-6.45 Doing It Up (401977) 5.00am Freescreen (59720)

ANGLIA As HTV West except 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1622083)

12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9873731) 6.25-6.45 Anglia News (419996) S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (88847) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (50977) 9.00 Bewitched (99793) 9.30 Sister Sister (8702489) 9.55 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (7223977) 10.20 The Crystal Maze (7520248) 11.20 Earthworm Jim (4790793) 11.45 The Pink Panther (6222996) 12.00 A Bit of Flava (4489625) 12.05pm California Dreams (9574977)

12.30 Ricki Lake (46199) 1.00 Slot Meithrin (31398070) 1.15 Lisabeth (36348575) 1.30 Film: My Friend Flicka (53694793) 3.10 Pharmacist (6937903) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (170) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (977) 4.30 Mrs Cohen's Financial Dlary (489)

5.00 5 Pump (6107809) 5.15 Ffeil (5269809) 5.30 Countdown (441)

6.00 Newyddion (307712) 6.05 Heno (333002) 6.35 Bob Yn Ddau (678712) 7 00 Pobol v Cwm (854183)

7.25 Ffermio (185070) 8.00 Phwcar! (7828) 8.30 Newyddion (6335) 9.00 Spin City (8915)

9.30 Roseanne (26335) 10.00 Etholiad 97 (270828) 10.15 Srookside (215199) 10.50 ER (724422)

11.45 PPB (Conservative) (778828) 11.50 Plasticine People (519002) 12.05am Midnight Special (9554010) 1.35 Under the Moon (6586590)

2.30 NBA XXL (8365497) 3.35 Naked Sport (2687671) 4.35-5.25 Trans World Sport (9120671)

CHANNEL ACT

6.00am Sesame Street (88847) 7.00 The Bio Breaklast (50977) 9.00 Bewitched (r) (T) (99793) 9.30 Sister Sister (r) (8702489) 9.55 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (7223977) 10.20 The Crystal Maze (7520248) 11.20 Earthworm Jim (4790793) 11.45 The Pink Panther (6222996)

12.00 A Bit of Flava (4489625) 12.05pm California Dreams (r) (9574977) 12.30 Light Lunch (86170) 1.30 Tower of Mice (50409809)

1.45 The Clouded Yellow (1951, b/w) starring Trevor Howard, Jean Simmons, Sonia Dresdel and Maxwell Reed. A thriller about a woman accused of murder. Directed by Ralph Thomas (53613828)

3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (170) 4.00 Fitteen-to-One (T) (977) 4.30 Countdown (T) (489) 5.00 Ricki Lake (1644) 5.30 Pet Rescue 6.00 Party of Five Charlie's past catches up

with him (T) (485248) 6.50 Fresh Pop (187170)

7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (410354) 7.50 Thatcher's Children Two first-time voters discuss the prominent issues in the general election (T) (573248)

8.00 Spot the Difference General election quiz show. Among the guests are The Times sketch writer Matthew Parris, Andrew Rawnsley and Petronelia Wyat m (7828) 8.30 Brookside David and Julia lend support

to the stricken Max and Susannah (T)

9.00 Countryside Undercover: Flying Feathers The omithologist David Braithwalte goes undercover to meet the people who are deliberately endangering

Britain's birds of prey (T) (8915) 9.30 Downward Nobility A look at some of Britain's heirs who have chosen not to live the aristocratic lile (r) (T) (26335)



Anthony Edwards as Greene (10pm)

10.00 ER Greene's popularity takes a dive after he sets up dates with two women on the

11.00 Friends Rachael's passions for Ross are aroused by an old prom video and Joey gives Chandler a bracelet (r) (T) (3460) 11.30 Party Political Broadcast by the Conservatives (773373)

discover they are both victims of infidelity 12.05 am Midnight Special Discussion series

11.35 Roseanne Jackie and her sister

(9554010) 1.35 Under the Moon Sports magazine with Danny Kelly (6586590)

2.30 NBA XXL (8365497) 3.35 Naked Sport (2687671) 4.35 Trans World Sport (9120671)

5.25 - 6.00 Backdate (7094497)

PANNET NA

6.00am 5 News Early with Scott Chisholm, Trish Adudu and Becky Anderson 7.30 Havakazoo Pre-school educational series (2079538) 8.00 Adventures of the

Bush Patrol (2697267) 8.30 Wideworld. the power lies within the government of the United States (2696538)

9.00 Espresso Consumer (5696489) 10.00 Exclusive (r) (6904538) 10.30 Fame and Fortune (r) (2609002)

11.00 Leeza Chat show (9836286) 11.50 Double Espresso (45493731) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful, Los Angeles-set soap (T) (2690354) 12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T) (9574170) 1.00 5 News Update (92504606) 1.05 Sunset Beach (1) (6699880) 2.00 5's Company.

music (1873985) 3.30 The Day the Loving Stopped (1981) starring Dominique Dunne, Valerie Harper and Dennis Weaver A made-fortelevision drama about a bride-to-be's doubts about her marriage. Directed by Daniel Mann (4584809)

Guests competitions comedy and

5.20 5's Company: Late Extra (14464915) 5.30 100 Per Cent. Game show without a host (1546373) 6.00 Whittle Quiz with audience participation

6.30 Family Affairs Jamie takes a moral stand

(1) (1534538) 7.00 Exclusive Showbiz magazine (1444422) 7.30 Serengeti Safari Documentary about a family of jackals living in the Masai Mara

reserve in Kenya (T) (7731248) 7.55 Party Political Broadcast by the Conservatives (5002083)



Hawkins and Bradley (8.00pm)

8.00 The Great Garden Game Paul Hawkins and Clare Bradley present the gardening challenge from Tatton Park near Manchester (1453170)

8.30 5 News with Kirsty Young and Rob Butler (1449977) 9 nn Counterfeit Contessa (1994) stamno

Tea Leoni and David Beecroft, A romantic comedy about a working class woman who dreams of being swept off her feet by a wealthy businessman. Directed by Ron Lagomarsino (43034625) 10.40 Bizarro Real life tales of the unusual

(5764460) 11.00 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy. The guest is Jane Birkin (9440921) 11.40 Tibs and Fibs Tony Slattery hosts the

irreverent medical quiz (2741644) 12.10am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine. Includes coverage of a lop Major League baseball game (97023395) 4,40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (6766045)

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory. published on Saturday

6.00em Morring Glory (7166251 9.00 Regis and Katine Lee (25880) 10.00 Another World (17286) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (87422) 12.00 The Oprah Winter Show (701701 1.00pm Geratic (96118) 2.00 Salv Jessy Rephael (93118) 3.00 Jerny Jones (96544) 4.00 The Oprah Winter Show (75151) 5.00 Sair Trek. The Next Generation (2315 6.00 Real TV (5977) 5.30 Married — with Children 19557 7.00 The Sympsoms (2915) 6,00 Rea! IV (3977) 4,30 members with Children (9557) 7,00 The Simpsons (3544) 7,30 MrA*S*H (8441) 8,00 Septings (29731) 8,00 Set Stellengs (15267) 10,00 Murder One (18354) 11,00 Selna Scott (76880) 11,30 Star Trek The Med Generation (80977) 12,30am LAPD (55855) 1,00 Hit Max Long Play (8503774)

SKY 2 7.00pm Superboy (4774441) 7.30 Superboy (3434538) 8.00 Renegade (1806354) 9.00 New York Undercover (1825118) 10.00 Waler Rats (1896977) 11.00 Late Show with David Letterman

SKY NEWS Worldwide news coverage, with buildins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week SKY MOVIES

SKY MOVIES

5.00m The Stateboard Kid (1983)
(\$228644) 7.20 Nine Hours to Rama
(1982) (47249544) 9.25 The Lion (1982)
(34114118) 11.00 Kideo (1984) (4028)
(3410418) 11.00 Kideo (1984) (4028)
(300 The Return of Tommy Tricker (1984)
(84793) 5.00 Scoult's Honour (1984)
(47354) 7.00 Cops and Robbersons
(1984) (14199) 8.00 The Birds It Land's
End (1984) (23386) 11.00 (ancount Uses
(1985) (20083) 12.90m Saturd Malice
(1983) (633942) 2.10 Angle (1984)
(551229) 4.00 Nine Hours to Rama
(1982) (70887)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

8.00em Daddy Long Legs (1955) (66016354) 8.10 The Ghi in the News (1940) (43579605) 10.00 The Musilark (1950) (60793) 12.00 The Day They Gave Bables Away (1857) [65335) 2.00pm

The state of the s

They Watch (1983) (15408) 4.00 Jim's Gift (1994) (5489) 6.00 Rolling Thunder (1994) (40198) 7.30 El News Week in Review (1151) 8.00 Outbreak (1995) 4033160) 10.10 For a Few Dollars More (1986) (51386606) 12.25am Dream Lover (1994) (70865) 2.10 Love, Cheat and Steel (1994) (118313) 3.50 Murder or Memory (1994) (6100039) 5.20 Ivaninoe (1986) (8775107)

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TNT

7.00em Sports Centre (47441) 7.30 Wresting Blast Oft (34257) 3.0 Recrop News (57731) 9.00 Sports Centre (58083) 9.30 Aerobics Oz Style (94373) 19.00 The Footballers Football Show (55450) 11.00 Sports Unlimited (4296) 12.00 Aerobics Oz Style (78847) 12.30pem Poot: World Masters (91915) 1.30 Pargside Bosmoj (55052) 3.30 Hell of Forms — Salvatore Schillachi (4267) 4.00 The Footballers Footballers Show (13335) 4.59 Sports Centre (1915151) 9.00 Wrestling, Shougum Challenge (7489) 6.00 Sports Centre (3151) 6.30 Grass Roots Hugby (7731) 7.00 Formula Three Recrop (57267) 7.59 Sports Centre (60731) 10.00 Sports Centre (4248) 10.30 Furbol Mandela (53996) 11.00 Formula Three Pacing (63489) 12.00 Sports Centre (38363) 12.30mm World of Super League (62956) 2.30-3.00 Sports Centre (13126) Sports Centre (39365) 2.30-3.00 Sports Centre (13126) Sports Centre (79847) Sports Centre (798

SKY SPORTS 3

SKY MOVIES GOLD

(6307147) 10,00 Never the Twain (426/680) 10,30 The Sulivans (9351588) 11,00 Casualty (88322809) 12,05pm Crossroads Casualty (88322909) 12.05pm Crossroads (78977052) 12.30 Neighbours (2707189) 1.00 EastEnders (8604083) 1.35 On the Up (3368462) 2.10 A Little Bit of Davisch (61749967) 2.20 Sonyi 410657) 2.55 Allo. Allo (5283052) 3.30 The Bit (246567) 4.00 All Creatures Great and Small (5000793) 8.00 Generator: Game (30118286) 6.05 EastEnders (4922506) 6.40 Are You Being Served? (1837539) 7.20 Russ Abobt (4007567) 7.50 Bulliseye (8129411) 8.20 In Sidness and in Health (8160799) 9.00 The Bit (500697) 9.30 Frank Stubts Promotes (79625625) 10.35 Spons Andrak of the Year (6-55066) 11.10 Hazel (3519083) 12.10am The Best of Top of the Pops (5831900) 12.45 Rowland 9.00pm On the Town (1949) (59875538) 11.00 The Outili (1974) (14805995) 12.50mm Passage to Mercellie (1944) (75.191120) 2.45-5.00 On the Town (1949) 1884535651 SKY SPORTS 1

of the Pops (5931590) 12.45 Rowland Phyton (9407855) 1.15 Callan (5781010) 2.15 Shopping at Night (28377768) GRANADA PLUS 6.00am The Krypton Factor (5746199) 6.30 The Return of the Antelope (2685606) 7.00 Classic Coronation Street (4125947) 7.30 Families (4104354) 8.00 Surprise Surprise (4946267) 9.00 The Protessionals Families (4104354) 8.00 Surprise Surprise (4946267) 9.00 The Protessionats (755847) 10.00 keyystar Factor (2505286) 10.30 Doctor in the House (5860235) 11.00 Within These Walls (4113002) 12.00 Classic Coronation Street (5666915) 12.30pm Families (6629151) 1.00 Clown Court (4104118) 1.30 The Good Life Guae (6608422) 2.00 A Family at Nat (350615) 3.00 Upstars, Downstairs (3095296) 4.00 Surprise, Surprise (3374793) 5.00 The Professionals (5933441) 6.00 Families (5540471) 6.00 Clowards Street 12.00 Beach Volleyball (57729606) 1.00pm 12.00 Beach Volleyball (577:29506 1-00pm Golf Extra (1250:257) 4.30 km Man (42555118) 5.00 Sporte Unfimiled (21419267) 6.00 Watersh Tour (4257:085) 6.00 Stiff Saling (42567335) 7.00 Sports Contra (21410996) 7.30 Golf Eura (70581809) 11.00-11.30 Euro Tour Golf resultant 6.30 Classic Coronation Street



Classic Coronation Street (2370977) 9.30 The Comedians (6849915) 10.00-11.00 The Professionals (2226248) THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00em Big Garege (9039644) 6.15 httppet Balvés (7867335) 8.40 The Care Bears (1317460) 7.05 Furnavey Mouse (6507002) 7.55 The Little Mermad (1401083) 8.20 Aladdin (1632985) 8.45 Guade Part (842118) 9.10 Brend Spank-me New Doug (37987002) 9.35 Mighty Ducks (3206083) 10.00 Good Troop (3519609) 10.25 Dartwing Duck (5513248) 10.50 Troon and Pumbaa (3423170) 11.15 Bookers (408625) 11.45 The Little Mermad (5325367) 12.10pm Cuach Attack (5325367) 12.10pm Quack Aback (2254828) 12.40 Mouse Tracks (5064625) 22(3422) 12.40 Mouse Tracks (9)64627) 1.10 Size with Mis High (14M422) 2.00 FILM: White Wolves II (80915) 3.30 Timon and Pumbae (128028) 3.40 Brand Sopraffic Rev Doug (5442129) 4.05 Good Troop (585098) 4.30 Quark Pack (950380) 4.56 Alaylan (9522915) 5.00 Flash Forusot (1995557) 5.45 Timon and Pumbae (1995557) 5.45 Timon and Pumbae (1995557) 5.45 Timon (1995) 6.30 Quark Miss (1997) 6.30 Miss (1997) 6.30 Pack Miss (1 Boy Leets World (7373) 7,00 Brotherly Love 1-80, 7.30 FILM; Ernest Rides Agein 252-8, 9.00-10.00 Touched by an Angol

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosis (1839151) 6.30 Inspector Gadgot (7262847) 7.00 Samunai Pizza Cais (6395151) 7.30 Eagle Riders (6314286) 8.00 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (8732425) 9.00 Big Bad Beetleborgs (8752425) 9.00 Big Bad Beetleborgs (8756025) 9.30 Power Rangers Zeo (7605606) 10.00 C Bear and Jamel (7283199) 10.30 Eet Stravegariza (6755296) 11.00 Life with Louie (8392538) 11.30 Eet Stravegariza (6755296) 11.00 Life with Louie (8392538) 11.30 Eet Stravegariza (6760422) 1.30 Eet Gaster (7609422) 1.30 Highlander (6394422) 1.30 Eigle Riders (7609433) 2.00 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtlee (4770652) 2.30 Masted Rider (3446373) 3.00 Big Bad Beetleborgs (4782460) 3.30 Power Rangers Zeo (3458118) 4.00 C Bear and Jamel (3437625) 4.30 Eet Stravegariza (3433839) 5.00 Spiderman (4761977) 5.30 Gooseburnes (3457489) 6.00-7.00 Sweet Valley High (3447002) 6.00am Three Little Ghosts (1839151) 6.30

6.00am Road to Aventea (84083) 7.00 Demis the Menace (48354) 8.00 Balman (66606) 8.30 Ari Attack (16147) 9.00 Flash Gordon (94809) 9.30 Bobby's World (30199) 10.00 Romuald the Randeer (35731) 10.30 Robinson Sucree (53790) 11.00 Danger Mouse (75199) 11.30 Gravedele High (7628) 12.00 Oscar's Orchestre (16183) 12.30pm Hallway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (34915) 1.00 By the Way of the Stars (41880) 1.30 Black Beatry (32286) 2.00 The Girl from Tomorow (2278) 2.30 Creat Odyssey (5538) 3.00 Art Attack (9625) 3.30 Flesh Gordon (1533) 4.00 Bathman (9118) 4.30-3.00 The Big Dist (8002) CARTOON NETWORK

NICKELODEON

6.00am Teenage Mutant Hero Turties (55248) 6.30 Court Duclade (14625) 7.00 Ceptam Siman and the Space Monkeys (45063) 7.30 Tales from the Crypticeper (6418) 8.00 Bruno the hid (65002) 8.30 Hey Amold! (65373) 9.00 Rugrals (5665) 10.00 Asarhi Real Monsters (52967) 10.30 Doug (52809) 11.00 Rocko's Modern Life (20625) 11.30 Bailey (apper's Point of View (21554) 12.00 haran and hed (76489) 12.30pm The Secret World of Alex Mack (96731) 1.00 Sister Sister (44554) 1.30 Moesha (95002) 2.00 Round the Twist (5644) 2.30 The Adventures of Pete and Pete (4444) 3.00 Stockin Around (4151) 3.30 Asashri Real Monsters (2009) 4.00 Waich Your Own Wednesdey (4644) 6.00 Press Gang (1793) 6.30-7.00 Doug (5373) TROCHRI F TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbroak High (5757408) 1.00pm Madison (4129248) 1.30 Sweet Valley High (5852052) 2.00 Hangtime (3664605) 2.30 Califorms Dreams (2269118) 2.00 Bykes Grove (3676441) 3.30 Blast (2231335) 4.00

Grove (367641) 3-39 pass (2231345) 4-00 Sweet Valley High (2243170) 4-30 Hangtime (2249354) 5.00 Saved by the Bell (3688286) 5-30 California Dreams (2230606) 6-00 Byter Grove (2260847) 6-30 Medison (2251199) 7-00-8-00 Heer-break High (5631644) BRAVO

8.00pm The New Twilight Zone (3677170) 9.00 The Burning Zone (9537828) 10.00 Tour of Duty (9530915) 11.00 FB.M: The Fear (8427606) 1.00pm The Burning Zone (427720) 2.00 Tour of Duty (9312229) 3.00 FILM: Sw edia (4897403) 5,00 The New

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Entertainment UK (9460) 7.30 Roseanne (1557) 8.00 Roseanne (5580) 8.30 Monty Python's Rying Caras (4915) 8.06 Cheers (40489) 9.30 Cybig (83267) 10.00 Fraster (77118) 10.30 N's Garry Shanding's Show (53538) 11.00 Armstrong and Miller (12606 11.30 Mylhistend (42731) 12.30mt Carnel Knowledge (75107) 1.30 Cybil (99774) 2.00 Entertainment UK (98861) 2.30 Armstrong and Miller (11768) 3.00 Fraster (23861) 3.30-4.00 Geny Shanding (95720) THE SCI-FI CHANNEL 8.00pm Moksiver (7632460) 8.30 The Twitight Zone (7628267) 8.00 Fillate Damien — Ossen II (4123956) 11.00 The Invacies (6850809) 12.00 The Incredible Huls, (3714045) 1.00sm The Twitight Zone (1898661) 1.30 Tales of the Unexpected (3439107) 2.004.00 Fillate Damien — Other II (8446107)

HOME & LEISURE 8.00am The Joy of Parting (2893408) 9.30 Grow with Joe (8107129) 10.00 Stars and Gardens (4267422) 10.30 Dong It Up (5099660) 11.00 The Painted House (5017083) 11.30 This Old House (5018712) 12.00 Yan Can Cook (2384052) 12.30pm Grahem Kerr (4507155) 1.00 Today's Cournel (4125422) 1.30 Home Again with Bob Ville (5957905) 2.00 Homestme (366080) 2.30 Furniture to Go (232064) 3.00 Two's Country (3689915) 3.30-4.00 This Old House (2244809)

DISCOVERY A.00pm Fishing Advertures (2256644) 4.30 Floedshow (2252828) 5.00 Terra X (3684480) 5.30 Mysteries, Magic and Marcics (2236880) 6.00 Uniamed Alnica (3857426) 7.00 Beyond 2000 (3671996) 7.30 Dicasjer (225357) 8.00 Animal Crachers (9520538) 9.00 Unexplained (9533002) 10.00 Animal Cracher (9543489) 11.00 Warrors (4142199) 12.00 Classic Wheels (9442300) 1.00am Disaster (101403) 1.30-2.00 Beyond 2000 (1271228)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL 4.00cm Apriont Methodas (1612373) 5.00 Churchill and the Cabinol Wer Rooms (7522083) 6,00 hennedy American Dream (3799688) 7.00-8.00 Biography: Christopher Colombus (4144489)

CHALLENGE TV

5.30 - 6.00 100 Per Cent (r) (5571126)

Win with Prize Time twice an hour 5.05pm Blockbusiers (6187985) 5.50 Family Fortunes (540002) 8.30 Catchphrase (520712) 7.05 Sale of the Century (896538) 7.40 Gave Us A Clue (561970) 8.20 All Clued Up (912248) 9.00 Through the Keyhole (784266) 9.35 Busman's Holiday (679915) 10.05 Treasure Huri (1440001) 11.20 Love at First Sight (926118) 12.00 Sale of the Century (41132) 12.30mm Hart to Hart (10519) 1.30 Moontighting (39336) 2.30 Christy (92478) 3.30 My Two Dads (39132) 4.00-5.00 The Fall Guy (52229) UK LIVING

8.00etm Tiny Living (7894034) 9.00 Gadriags and Glamour (8396199) 9.15 The Gordon Ellion Show (6736538) 10.05 Jerry Springer Uncut (7895915) 11.00 The Young and the Resides (8831267) 11.50 Brookside (2218909) 12.25pm Why Me? Reel Life Case Studies (78229052) 12.55 Tempesit (8679880) 1.40 Rolanda (8115731) 2.30 The Agany Experience (9665557) 3.00 Live at Three (26256083) 4.05 The Jerry Springer Show (9043422) 4.05 The Jerry Springer Show (9043422) 6.05 Lingo (79623151) 5.30 Lucky Ladders (9667373) 6.00 i Dream of Jeannio (3718764) 6.35 Ready. Steady. Cook (2114809) 7.05 Hearts Afric (1042644) 7.35 Brookside (2768199) 8.05 Rejonda (5565489) 9.00 FiLM: Credie of Conspir-ZEE TV

7.00am Jasgran 7.30 Election Special 8.00
ZEE Calling 8.30 Maa 9.00 Ebar Jumbe
Mavys 9.30 Abhrietin 10.00 Tara 11.00 The
Low Cal Show 11.30 Dance Menta 12.00
Daraar 12.30pm Dhoop Aur Chaon 1.00
FILM: Heer Rainfina 4.00 ZEE Zone
Presents 4.10 Public Demand 8.10 Avil Jaia
8.00 Campus 6.30 ZEE and You 7.00
Karral Kombination 7.30 Banegi April Bast
9.00 News 8.35 Dastean 9.05 Pathar 10.00
ht Thi Hit Hai 10.30 Purush Kshetra 11.3012.00 Mano Ya Na Mano

MTV The 24 hour music channel includes news, reviews, live concert footage, inter-views, and the latest music, video charts

The video hits channel. Classic rock and



WEDNESDAY APRIL 9 1997

Echoes of the past abound as United seek place in European Cup final

Ferguson fears German fall guys

FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT IN DORTMUND

THERE are two matches to go now, two matches between Manchester United and a date in Munich next month that would stir a thousand emotions. Alex Ferguson did the best he could yesterday to ground discussion of his team's preparations for the first leg of the European Cup semi-final against Borussia Dortmund in purely practical matters, but still the shadow of Busby, Best, Charlton and Law danced around his

With seven members of his squad teetering on the edge of suspension going into the match at the Westfalenstadion here tonight. Ferguson, as canny as ever, alluded several times to the German propensity for reacting theatrically to the most innocuous of tackles and said he was confident that the Russian referee, Nikolai Levnikov, would not be taken in by their antics.

He promised, too, that his players would not "tiptoe" through what is likely to be a full-blooded match against the German champions in front of a partisan crowd of more than 55,000 people to try to protect themselves from a second yellow card, as many had done in the second leg of the quarter-final against FC Porto. The contributions of Eric Cantona and Peter Schmeichel, two of what he called his "big-game players", would be crucial, he said.

By then, though, Schmeichel had already made his first contribution. In an innocent appraisal of the differences in pace and style between the way the game was played when United won the European Cup in 1968 and the fiercer, fitter way it is pursued today, the Denmark goalkeep-Giggs, Beckham, Cantona et al would beat Busby's trophy-

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ACROSS

9 Relinquish (5)

13 For example (4,2)

Result of jumping gun (5.5)

10 Flavour: Chinese dynasty (4)

11 Resonant; sorrowfully load (8)

15 Place in pecking order (6)

17 Raise dissatisfaction (8)

21 Not under breath (5)

22 Considered; idea (7)

SOLUTION TO NO 1062

19 Icon 21 Alibi 22 Eden

All flights subject to availability.

end 13 Rummer 15 Shadow mind 24 Gulp 25 Trillion

3 23 Party-pooper (10)

winning side 10-0. "I am not demeaning anyhave achieved," Schmeichel said. "But I am part of the greatest United team of all time. Since the 1960s, everything has changed in football. The pace of the game is so

No 1063

ACROSS: 1 Ridicule 5 Kant 9 Owner-occupier 10 Bevy 11 Tail-

DOWN: 1 Rook 2 Dense 3 Carlyle 4 Locate 6 Aniseed 7 Turn down 8 Fuji 12 Price tag 14 Minimal 16 Hurtful 17 Fester

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1058

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Narcissi 5 Oslo 8 Glare 9 Lift off 11 Tim

20 Dialect 21 Mural 22 Wash 23 One-sided

12 Conundrum 13 Enlist 15 Inlets 18 Well-being 19 Tom

DOWN: I Nightic 2 Realm 3 inexcusable 4 Silent 6 Seourse

7 Oxfam 10 Frm and games 14 Lallans 16 Sampled 17 Listen

Ist PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is J Davies,

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic network is D Harvey. Heasham, Surrey.

2 Line up (5)

Reduce speed (4)

6 Raging stream (7)

4 Sea hazard, with Charybdis (6)

5 Likeness, attraction (for) (8)

Game show player (10)

Andrea -. It classical ar-

8 (Behaviour) hurting the

14 Simple face; a House (7)

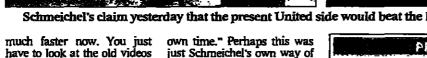
19 Portend: ancient priest (5)

16 Beam over door (6)

20 Successful stroke (4)

general good (10)

chitect (8)



trying to shake the monkey of to see the space they had then and all the time they had on United's past European glo-ries off his back. His words the ball. That does not happen were certainly spoken without world, probably a better more akin to scientific obserworld, but things have moved vations than the calculated on. I even remember watching insults that some will seek to the World Cup final of 1974 turn them into. Ferguson, between West Germany and though, is sure to be less than

Holland and they walked with amused by the commotion Tonight, after all, is the biggest night in his decade in probably play at twice the speed they did then and that is why I am saying we would beat them 10-0. I am not charge at Old Trafford. These two matches against a Dortsaying the United team of 1968 mund team packed with formidable German interwas not a great team in their nationals represent the gateway to Munich and a night, were they to win in the final on May 28, that would complete the cathartic cycle

Schmeichel's claim yesterday that the present United side would beat the 1968 European Cup winning team 10-0 was a distraction before the game in Dortmund tonight

PROBABLE LINE-UPS BORUSSIA DORTMUND

S Klos. W Felersinge

J Köhler, M Kres, P Lambert, S Reuter, J Heinrich, A Möller,

P Šousa. S Chapuisat (or H Herrlich),

Kideoff 7.30 pm (Live on 11V)

son to the Manchester United pantheon that Busby has occupied since his team beat Benfica at Wembley in 1968.

Ferguson, though, refused to let his mind wander yesterday. His thoughts were firmly focused on the match ahead, a match for which he has no injury worries after the recovery of David May. Typically,

MANCHESTER UNITED

P Schmeichel.

G Neville, D May.

G Pallister, D Irwin, N Butt (or R Johnsen).

D Beckharn, R Keane,

R Giggs, O G Solskjaer, **E** Cantona

the United manager has left nothing to chance in his preparations: Dortmund, who are pursuing their third consecutive domestic title and are

results, have been watched five times by United represen-The only unknown, accord-

second in the Bundesliga de-

spite some inconsistent recent

ing to Ferguson, seemed to be the possibility that the Gerthe referees to be 100 per mans might trick the referee into unwarranted cautions of visiting players. "I think it is important that the referee is

fair and does not fall for the European culture of falling down every time you are touched," he said. "There is a

lot of that about but there is no way I will be telling my players not to tackle.

and in other European countries, you see players going up to referees and motioning as if they are waving a card, trying to persuade them to book somebody. It would be a real blow to one of our young players if they missed the final because of a second yellow card. I have just told them to tackle and go for the ball and

when you get to this stage of

the competition you expect

Ferguson refused to single

out any of the Dortmund players for special attention although he acknowledged the threat of Andreas Möller, who usually plays just behind Dortmund's two forwards. Matthias Sammer, the European footballer of the year, is suspended and the Dortmund coach, Ottmar Hitzfeld, also Chapuisat and Stephane

Jürgen Kohler. Ferguson did say, though, that he expected Dortmund to man-mark Cantona. "I don't think Eric will be too worried about that," he said. "We need him and Schmeichel to be absolutely 100 per cent tomorrow. When you get to semifinals like this, you need your big-game players to do it for

Faldo and Woods unlikely to be drawn together

FROM JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN AUGUSTA

UNCERTAINTY surrounds the identity of the player with whom Nick Faldo, the defend ing champion, will be paired in the opening round of the US Masters here tomorrow. By rather loose tradition, the champion usually plays with the reigning US Amateur champion, whereas the Ama. teur champion from Britain partners a leading American. Last year, Gordon Sherry

played with Fred Couples.

If tradition is followed this year, Faldo should play with Tiger Woods, the game's big-gest draw, who won his thin US Amateur title last summer. However, Woods then turned professional and the officials at the Augusta National dub. usually consider that, in those circumstances, the honour of playing with the defending champion should pass to the beaten finalist in the US

If that practice is adhered to. then Faldo's partner will be

Woods finds focus

University of Florida, who is making his first appearance in

"Nick enjoyed playing with Tiger at Jacksonville," David Leadbetter, Faldo's coach, reported from Orlando last week. "He is assuming he is going to play with Tiger in the first round. It won't be a shock he is. He is preparing himself for a lot of noise and distraction."

Faldo and Woods played a practice round together at the Masters in 1995. Their first, and so far only competitive 18 holes together, was on the fourth day of the Players Championship at Jacksonville last month.

On that occasion, Faldo course strategy over the first nine holes, moving four strokes ahead of the young American only to squander most of that lead coming home.

"Nick is a very intense individual on the golf course' and it really shows," Woods said after the round. "He plays like that a lot — a lot of the great players do. I enjoyed playing with him."

MCC to vote on women members

By Ivo Tennant

of 1958 and so elevate Fergu-

THE vexed issue of whether or not women should be allowed to join MCC, the most famous cricket club in the world, will be decided by its membership in the coming months. The likelihood is that the matter will be debated at the annual general meeting to be held in May 1998.

This has got to be thoroughly aired and will be put before the full membership while Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie is still president," Chris Rea, the club spokesman, said yesterday.

"A working party under Charles Rob-

autumn and recommended to the committee that there should be further

The previous occasion on which an attempt was made to introduce female members was in 1991, when Rachael Heyhoe Flint, a former England women's captain, was backed by four influential members, including Sir Jack Hayward and the late Brian Johnston. But they failed to gain the requisite two-thirds majority.

Heyhoe Flint has made no secret of her continuing desire to be elected to the club and will doubtless attract further publici-

game, not least because she was strongly opposed to the decision not to take wives and girlfriends on England's tour to Zimbabwe and New Zealand last

Ingleby-Mackenzie will be sympathetic to her cause and, even if women are not admitted, there is a possibility that some prominent individuals will be elected in an honorary capacity. Those who wish to see MCC preserved as an all-male bastion need not altogether repine: women will have to go to the back of a long waiting-list.

Tough task for Scotland, page 45

ins looked into the matter during the ty. She has retained her profile within the And the winner is . . . the English FA

did not premiere at Leicester Square and was not directed by Anthony Minghella; it does not have the catchiest title and will not win nine Oscars. Yet, when World Cup 2006 Campaign - the Promotional Video was released yesterday, the Football Association cooed enthusiastically about its latest weapon in the propaganda war with the German FA.

As the sun rose over Stonehenge, and the action switched from Bobby Moore lifting the Jules Rimet Trophy in 1966 to black-and-white footage from the British Pathé Library, Robert Powell, the narrator, eased his way through the smoothest of hard sells. "Football's birthplace is England," he enthused quietly, in a very British, almost Old Etonian, manner. "England is acknowledged as the

home of football." Euro 96 also features prominently in the slick, six-minute montage of why England, not Germany, should stage the 2006 World Cup finals. "Euro 96 was a triumphant confirmation that when you give English football a job to do, it does it well," Powell said.

Russell Kempson on the outbreak of video wars over the 2006 World Cup

From the actor who once played Jesus Christ it was difficult to argue. Costing £15,000 to produce,

and with a distribution list of 1,000, the video is to be sent to the movers and shakers of world football. With Uefa, the sport's European governing body, still siding with the German bid, it is hoped that the film - endorsed by Gary Lineker, television's ubiquitous Mr Nice Guy - will persuade the undecided that English is best.

Representatives of the English FA. including Keith Wise man, the chairman, and Graham Kelly, the chief executive, will meet their German counterparts and Ucfa officials in Nyon, near Geneva, next week. "No decision will be made then," a 2006 Campaign spokesman said yesterday. "It is just part of the consultative process." The video will not be shown, either.

David Wooster, its director,

has crafted a moody master-

piece of multifarious imagery.



Pictures of Tower Bridge, Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace, serenaded by music from the Lightning Seeds and the Lighthouse Family, add a cultural feel. Powell also extols the virtues of Heathrow, recommending "the convenience of staging the event at the crossroads o global travel".

Wooster expertly integrating ing highlights from the European Championship finals. Paul Gascoigne's spectacular goal against Scotland predictably rates inclusion but, sensibly, his guzzling exploits in the "Dentist's Chair", by way of celebration, have been left on the cutting-room floor.
The FA Carling Premier-

ship is there, too, though the sight of Julian Dicks, the shaven-headed West Ham United warrior, in full battlecry should not be shown to minors. Neither should the pectacle of Stuart Pearce, the Nottingham Forest caretaker player-manager, whose facial expression suggests that his body has been invaded by a red-hot noker.

"We know we have a powerful case to make and we have a lot of friends around the world," Alec McGivan, director of the 2006 Campaign, said. Perhaps ... but the tape will not be sent to the Deuische Fussball-Bund in Frankfurt. It is the home of the

The Halifax divide, page 45

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